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AGAWAM

Advertiser News

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Agawam
Basketball . . 14

INSIDE

Arts	23
Business	18
Education	7
Public Safety	9
Sports	14
Classifieds	20

24 PAGES

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Turley Publications courtesy graphic

CASINO IN OUR MIDST?

The proposed Hard Rock Hotel and Casino New England, to be located at the Eastern States Exposition on Memorial Avenue in West Springfield.

Hard Rock unveils plans for West Springfield

By Jennifer Wroblewski
Staff Writer

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The Eastern States Exposition, home to the annual Big E fair in West Springfield, could become home to the big C – casino, that is.

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) this week announced that 11 gaming applicants have officially submitted the first application – phase one of a two-phase process – toward the award of an expanded gaming license, including one for property located on Memorial Avenue in West Springfield. Hard Rock International announced Friday, Jan. 11,

that it would submit its application along with a \$400,000 non-refundable application fee to the MGC for the development of Hard Rock Hotel and Casino New England to be located on the campus of the Eastern States Exposition, not far from the border of Agawam.

The single-phased resort property would be created on a dedicated 38-acre area of the Exposition's eastern parcel, according to a statement by Hard Rock International.

The other applicants include MGM Springfield; Penn National Gaming, Inc.; Plainridge Racecourse; Wynn, LLC; Mo-

Please see **HARD ROCK**, page 6

Agawam officials react to casino news

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – Mayor Richard A. Cohen has established a Casino Oversight Committee to look at the potential impact that a casino resort located at Eastern States Exposition grounds in West Springfield would have on the interests of this town.

Cohen's committee will be comprised of one member of his administration, one city councilor, and one school committee member. Chosen to chair the committee was Town Clerk Richard Theroux, representing Cohen's administration. City Councilor Paul Cavallo and School Committee member Wendy Rua were also

chosen.

Cohen, Theroux, and Rua spoke at a press conference held Monday, Jan. 14 to discuss why the committee was established and what it hopes to gain from "being at the table."

Cohen said he was approached by Eastern States President Eugene Cassidy to be a part of the discussion about a month ago.

"He invited me to sit in and take part of all meetings between Eastern States and Hard Rock," said Cohen.

Hard Rock and Eastern States held what could be described as a gala event to announce the proposal of building a

Please see **CASINO**, page 6

School Street Park funding up for discussion

By Jennifer Wroblewski
Staff Writer

AGAWAM — The city council will tackle the School Street Park project and hear from residents during a public hearing to authorize the application and acceptance of a Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) during its next meeting, set for Tuesday, Jan. 22.

The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at Roberta G. Doering School on Main Street.

Please see **FUNDING**, page 3

DA announces retesting of evidence in Lisa Ziegert case

By Sarah Platanitis
Turley Publications
Correspondent

AGAWAM — The investigation into the abduction and killing of Lisa Ziegert remains open after more than 20 years, but recent developments in the case – specifically the retesting of evidence by the Hampden County District Attorney's Office – are providing new hope for Lisa's family.

Last year, Hampden



File photo

Lisa Ziegert

County District Attorney Mark G. Mastroianni announced that the Ziegert case would be one of a number of open cases that may possibly benefit from a re-examination of evidence using modern forensic techniques to generate clues.

"They have been working on the case all along and, to me, this has been a huge plus. We're very encouraged and pleased with all of the investigators involved from the Agawam Police

Department, the state police and the FBI. They've always been very positive on going forward with Lisa's case," said Dee Ziegert, Lisa's mother.

Investigators have also been checking photographs, witness statements, notes and interviewing people with the faith that a little piece of information may lead to the identification of a suspect.

Ziegert was reported missing on April 15, 1992, from Brittany's Card and Gift Shop

Please see **ZIEGERT**, page 6



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GEOGRAPHY BEE WINNER ADVANCES TO NEXT ROUND



Turley Publications courtesy photo

AJHS Geography Bee winner Ricky Dialessi, center, is pictured with his parents, Michael and Peggy, and his sister, Rachel.

Ricky Dialessi, an 8th grade student at Agawam Junior High School, placed first in the annual National Geographic Geography Bee held at the school.

The geography bee is a school-wide competition that culminated in a final round contest of the top 10 students in the school vying for the opportunity to advance to the next level of competition. Ricky was also a geography bee finalist last year as a 7th grader.

As Agawam's representative, he will participate in the next phase of the competition by taking a written exam in the coming weeks. Contestants with qualifying scores will be invited to a regional competition followed by a state and national stage for those that continue to qualify. The national geography bee champion will be crowned in the spring.

WHERE IS IT?

Each week *Agawam Advertiser News* will feature a photo of a local building, item, sign, place or landmark and ask readers to pick their brains to figure out where it is or even what it is. Check here each week to test your knowledge of the area where we live and work. The photo will be from either Agawam or Feeding Hills, but we'll always give you a hint or two.

The answer to this week's "Where is it?" will run in next week's edition along with the name of the first person to submit a correct answer and a new trivia photo for you to consider.

E-mail answers or future Where Is It? suggestions to editor Jennifer Wroblewski at jwroblewski@turley.com.



Turley Publications photo
by Kimberly Hatch

Cast your eye to the sky and you may see this towering over you somewhere in town. Tell us, do you know where it is?



Last week's photo: Correctly guessing Springfield Street in Feeding Hills were Pat Borgatti of Feeding Hills; Erika Cuzzone and Jacqueline Prendergast.

Sunday, Jan 27th

1:00-3:00pm



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Kevin Rhodes, Music Director

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Citizens’ Legislative Seminar scheduled for March

BOSTON – State Sen. Michael R. Knapik, R-Westfield announced recently that the 70th Citizens’ Legislative Seminar (CLS) will be held Tuesday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the State House.

“The Citizens’ Legislative Seminar is an excellent opportunity for the citizens of the Commonwealth to become informed and actively participate in the everyday functions of state government,” Knapik said. “I highly encourage all interested residents of the 2nd Hampden and Hampshire district to apply.”

CLS is a seminar that aims to better educate the public on the Commonwealth’s legislative process. Established in 1976 through a collaborative effort of the Massachusetts Senate and the University of Massachusetts,

this two-day seminar features presentations by senators and staff on aspects of the day-to-day experience of legislators in the Commonwealth. Topics will include the history and process of the Legislature, the parliamentary role of the Clerk of the Senate and the future of the Legislature.

The CLS culminates with a simulated legislative hearing and senate session where participants are invited to use what they have learned and participate as “senators” in the Senate Chamber in order to have a first-hand experience of the legislative process.

All interested residents are invited to contact Sean Diamond in the Senator’s State House Office at 617-722-1415 by Monday, Feb. 4. Participation is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Park funding to be discussed

FUNDING, from page 1

Councilors are expected to vote on two resolutions regarding School Street Park. One is the appropriation of \$1.8 million in Community Preservation Act funds for phase 2 of the School Street Park project; the other to accept for a \$400,000 in Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

If the council approves the PARC grant resolution, the town could be eligible to receive 68 percent reimbursement for development or renovation projects.

“We did apply for and receive the [PARC] grant,” said Jennifer Bonfiglio, CPA administrator for the town of Agawam. “We have to fully fund the project in order to receive that grant. The money has been awarded on the condition that the park has to be fully funded, which is why we need to appropriate that \$1.8 million first.”

Agawam was one of 25 communities to receive the PARC grant this year. The program

funded 25 of 50 applications this year compared to just 17 of 51 last year. Agawam was among the communities rejected last year.

According to Bonfiglio, without that \$1.8 million in CPA funding, the town would lose the grant. She added that at its last meeting, the Community Preservation Committee voted not to award CPA funding until it comes up with a five-year plan because of recent changes in CPA legislation.

“All of a sudden, there are a lot of projects eligible that weren’t in the past,” she said.

Because the School Street Park and Borgetti Field projects were applied for prior to the CPA taking the vote to put a hold on projects, they’ve opted to continue with those applications and will not award future projects until the five-year plan is completed.

Plans for Phase 2 of the park call for the development of 20 acres of land, to include a pavilion, shelter for picnickers, spray park, a concession area, and a toddler playground. There will also be more walking paths and more parking included.

Housing project back to the drawing board

Soldier On plan requires ‘minor revisions’

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – Soldier On, a project meant to provide veterans with affordable housing units, was forced to go back for a modification of the comprehensive permit received by the Zoning Board of Appeals recently.

Modification was necessary after the plan approved by the planning board and zoning board of appeals required minor revisions. The revisions were required by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, which is providing some funding for the project.

In a Jan. 4 decision, the Planning Board voted unanimously to send a letter of support to the ZBA, which makes the ultimate decision on the comprehensive permit.

The \$12 million project needed revisions outlined by the commission, including preservation of the interior historic lobby on the first floor as well as the seating/stage in the auditorium located on the second floor, all of which are considered historically significant. Also, a rooftop addition should be reduced in size and shifted toward the rear of the building.

According to historical commission officials, the shift is being requested to “eliminate potential visual impacts that would detract from the historic aesthetic of this structure.”

More changes were suggested after MHC acknowledged that its requests would result in a lower amount of dwelling units, originally set to be 54.

Also suggested was another two-story addition in the rear of the structure, but hidden from view of Westfield Road. A redesign and adjustment of the unit layouts and kitchen located in the building interior were also

recommended. Finally, modifications to the overall site plan to accommodate the other changes were requested.

The new building addition will be approximately 600 square feet of impervious area over the original approved plan, the permit application states. However, with the changes made by shifting other parts of the plan, there will actually be 160 square feet less of impervious area built upon.

As a result of the changes, the plan was modified to have 53 units instead of its original 54.

No changes were made to the parking, traffic flow, internal circulation, landscaping, or amenities offered at the location.

Soldier On creates housing for low and moderate-income veterans. The facility being built in Agawam is located at 702 South Westfield St., the former site of a police training academy.

Massachusetts Historical Commission possesses some oversight of the building due to its historic credit.

The planning board made a 4-0 decision Jan. 4 and the board of appeals was expected to begin discussing the matter at its meeting held Jan. 14.

The building is being redesigned by engineer James M. Scalise II of SK Design Group Inc. of Pittsfield. The former academy building was constructed around 1900.

The plan was reviewed the Engineering Department at Agawam Town Hall, who made some minor recommendations to the plan for water lines and sewer connections. Town Engineer Michelle Chase recommended the sewer connection should be made at a lower elevation to the water line. Concrete encasement of the water line and sewer connection is considered not necessary.

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Opinion

Decks stacked across town lines

We applaud officials of the town of Agawam for taking a proactive step toward preserving the town's interest in the face of a casino just over the bridge in West Springfield, a stone's throw from our border.

In response to last Friday's announcement that Hard Rock has partnered with Eastern States Exposition (ESP) to propose building a \$700 million to \$800 million casino resort on ESP property on Memorial Avenue in West Springfield, Agawam Mayor Richard A. Cohen called a press conference Monday, Jan. 14 to announce that he has established a Casino Oversight Committee to investigate the potential impact of a casino resort located in West Springfield.

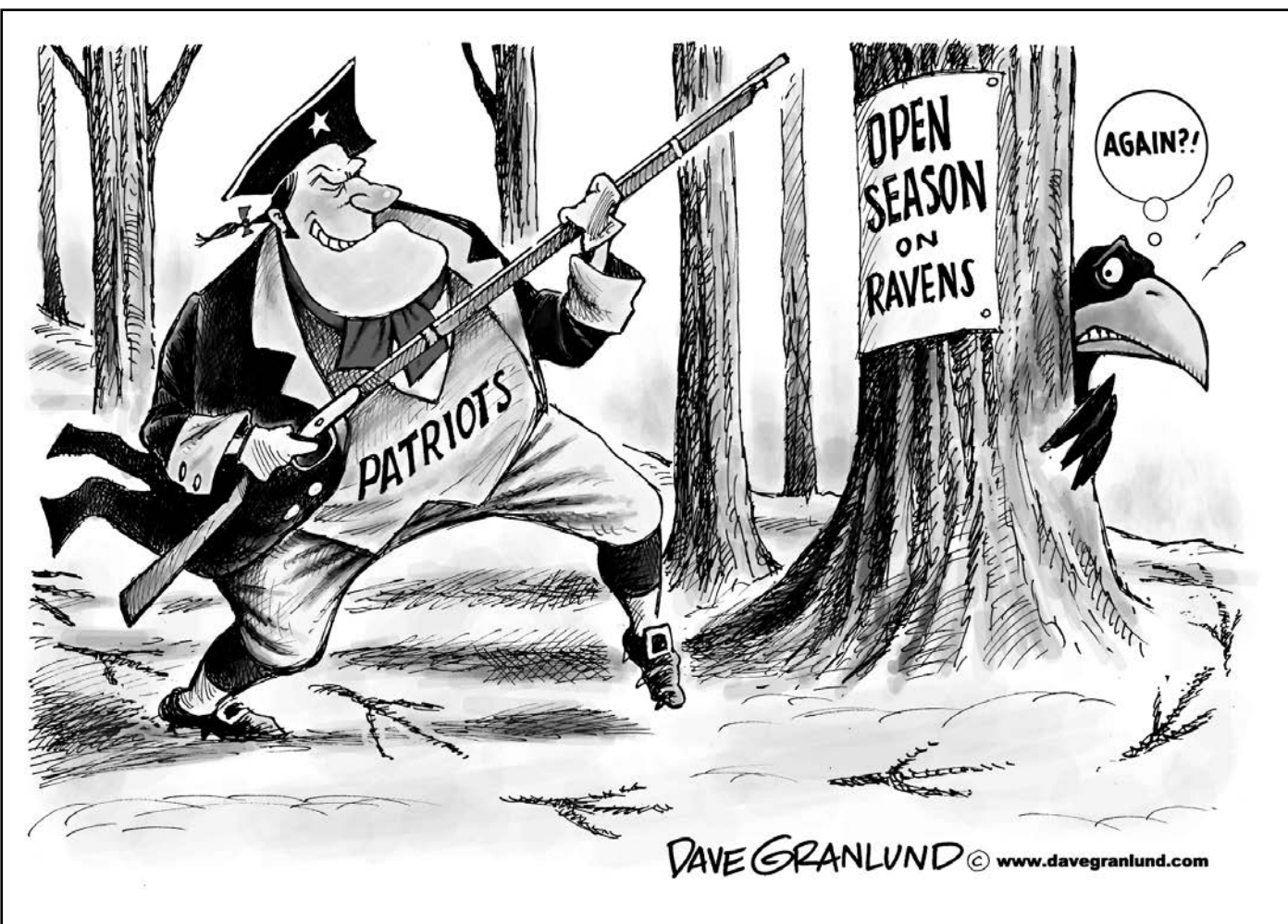
The three-member committee includes Agawam City Councilor Paul Cavallo, school committee member Wendy Rua, and Town Clerk Richard Theroux, representing Cohen's administration.

While we oppose the institution of casino gaming in our state for a variety of reasons, the Legislature and governor did make it the law, so all we can do now is urge adequate planning for impacts to quality of life in the emotional rush to the slots. Kudos to Cohen for recognizing the importance of that and to his committee for stepping up to the plate to tackle the task at hand.

Included on their list of concerns – and ours – are the impacts to public safety, traffic and local business.

Agawam drivers already face a traffic nightmare during the 17-day Big E Fair every fall, during which time the intersection of Routes 75, 147 and 159 is backed up in every direction as drivers try to navigate their way among the festival goers searching for parking. Hard Rock has indicated that it will assist the Eastern States Exposition during the annual two-week event – including bringing in live entertainers and assisting with traffic issues in West Springfield – but that won't necessarily help drivers over the bridge in Agawam.

Cohen has expressed a desire for financial compensation in the form of "revenue sharing" for the project and we understand the casinos are trying to show good faith toward surrounding communities to work out what-



ever problems may arise from future discussions. We hope the Casino Oversight Committee will not only closely monitor those mitigation efforts from here on out, but also keep our townspeople informed.

To that end, we urge our readers to ask questions. We welcome letters to the editor with your thoughts on the matter, which we hope will facilitate local discussion and keep the issue in the headlines, so to speak, and we encourage you to attend the oversight committee's public meetings. This is only the beginning of what is sure to be a long, drawn out process for not only local officials, but state Legislators and casino developers. It behooves all of us – local government, residents and media – to pay attention to what happens going forward so as not to lose our hand.

Friends of the Library plan annual meeting

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library will hold its annual meeting Thursday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of the Agawam Public Library. This meeting is open to the public. The election of officers will be held at this meeting. All members who have paid their 2013 dues will be eligible to vote. Anyone interested in joining the Friends organization may pay their dues at the beginning of the meeting to become eligible to vote.

The Friends are preparing for the third Open Juried Photography Show to be held in February and for the annual Book

Sale to be held May 17 and 18. Anyone wishing to donate books for this fundraiser may bring them to the main desk at the library.

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library is a nonprofit, 501 c(3) tax-exempt organization whose mission is to support the town library by providing fundraisers, workshops and educational activities, and volunteer services.

For more information, write to Friends of the Agawam Public Library, P.O. Box 478, Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0478. The Friends group is not connected to any local, state, or federal government agency.

Time well spent

Another holiday season draws to a close. Sometimes it is difficult to truly appreciate Christmas. The story is the same and not much has changed in 2000 years. This year I was struck with a commentary on where our culture has taken us. My teenage daughter has a friend who went to see a Christmas play.

The friend was incensed that the play could tell a lie about a virgin having a child, that's not possible she said. My daughter pressed the issue and found that her teenage friend had never heard the Christmas story before this year. How does a teenager in America not know the story of the Savior's birth?

People may not believe the story, but for so many years it has been such a part of our culture that everyone at least knew it. On one hand I was shocked and on the other it made total sense.

I spent nearly 20 years working with teenagers as a youth pastor. During those years I was often struck by how much effort, energy and money parents would put into their child's education. Next year my daughter will have friends attending private high schools that cost \$30,000 or \$40,000 a year, more than some people make in that timeframe. My older daughter will have friends who will spend hours each week preparing for SAT's. Students in honors classes will spend hours each day doing homework. Then there are all the extra-curricular activities.

All of these activities are done to ensure that a student can attend their first choice college. American students may

be under performing in comparison to other countries, but there is still an abundance of time, energy and money spent on trying to get a better education.

I don't have a problem with higher education; I support it.

My problem is that all this attention given to pursuing a good education and a good life is at the expense of eternity. Investing in the future is a good aspiration. Investing in your eternal future is a better aspiration. When it comes to church and understanding God we are lucky if our children get three hours a week in spiritual education.

We need to remember that there is more to living than having a nice home and a good job. If we don't have peace and sacrifice our eternal destiny for good, we have missed what is best. Our society is becoming secularized just like Europe. Though society may go that way, we need not push our children that way as well. Educate them in the ways of the Lord and they will have riches that far exceed anything a good education can give them.

Matthew 6:33 tells us that if we will seek God and His kingdom first we will get everything else that we need as well. That includes the thing we want most for our children, joy and happiness which may or may not come from material wealth. Our pursuit

of God should be our number one priority not with the leftover time after pursuing what the world offers. This year commit to making God a greater priority in your life and the life of your children.

FAITH MATTERS



REV. BRAD PETERSON, PASTOR
HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Please send letters to *Agawam Advertiser News*, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@turley.com.

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Building a stronger, healthier community

Ask anyone in Agawam what the YMCA of Greater Springfield has meant to them and you are bound to hear stories of summer camp adventures, swimming lessons, sports programs, fitness classes and much more. Through its “Y Without Walls” programming, the YMCA has been serving the youth development, healthy living and social responsibility needs of Agawam families for decades.

We are proud of the long history that the Y has in this community. We have an extensive list of community partners who support the mission of the YMCA and have opened their doors to us so that we can bring quality programs to the youth, teens, families and seniors who live and work here. Thanks to these collaborations, thousands of Agawam residents are leading healthier, more productive lives.

In the town of Agawam and its surrounding neighborhoods, the YMCA of Greater Springfield currently serves over 250 youth (ages 3 to 13) through

swim and pre-school sports programs, run in collaboration with the Agawam Park and Recreation department annually. Each year, we impact the lives of over 500 youth and teens through the Birch Park Outreach Center and Camp Weber, both in nearby West Springfield. To date, we have close to 300 members from Agawam and West Springfield using our facilities and participating in programs at our family centers in Springfield and Wilbraham. Proudly, the YMCA has impacted the lives of more than 5 percent

of the youth and teen populations in these communities, but we need to do more.

The desire to do more is exactly what is driving us to create the Agawam YMCA Wellness and Program Family Center. Imagine the impact we will have on our families by providing a comfortable atmosphere for folks to exercise and enjoy a cup of coffee with friends; a place where youngsters can develop their minds; and teens and seniors can visit and learn from each

other. The Agawam YMCA Wellness and Program Family Center will have an anticipated total impact on 5,000 to 6,000 members in the Agawam region.

Thanks to a dedicated committee of volunteers, we are proud to say that we are doing a lot more than simply imagining. This team is working tirelessly to raise the \$500,000 needed to bring this project to fruition. With financial backing from the Y and the community, we are confident that families throughout our region will soon realize the benefits that this center will bring.

We encourage you to get involved by making a pledge to the campaign and urging your families and friends to do the same. For information on this endeavor or to make a pledge, visit www.springfieldy.org or contact Jason Pirnie, executive director of the Agawam Wellness and Program Family Center at (413) 739-6951.

Kirk Smith is president and CEO of YMCA of Greater Springfield.

GUEST COLUMN

KIRK SMITH

A call for reader photos

AGAWAM - We're hoping to include your submitted "Snapshots of Life" photos from around town for a special photo spread at least once a month starting this month. Send us photos of your life around town, either at a school/town event or doing something as mundane as shoveling your driveway after a storm or building a snowman with your kids. Email photos to *Agawam Advertiser News* Editor Jennifer Wroblewski at jwroblewski@turley.com.

Advocates sought for nursing home residents

SPRINGFIELD - Greater Springfield Senior Services is seeking caring individuals to serve as volunteer advocates for residents of nursing homes and rest homes through its Long Term Care Ombudsman program. Ombudsmen visit with residents once a week to listen to their concerns and address issues affecting the quality of their care. They investigate complaints made by residents or family members and work with the facility to resolve them. Free training and certification are provided.

For more information, contact the long-term care ombudsman coordinator at (413) 781-8800 ext. 178.

The long-term care ombudsman program is a state and federally mandated service for all residents in area nursing homes to ensure that their personal rights are respected and they receive treatment in clean, comfortable environments.

Greater Springfield Senior Services is a nonprofit organization established in 1972 to provide a variety of in-home and community based services for older adults and their caregivers. It serves the communities of Agawam, Brimfield, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Holland, Longmeadow, Monson, Palmer, Springfield, Wales, West Springfield and Wilbraham.

City Council meeting agenda

Roberta G. Doering School
68 Main St.
Jan. 22, 7 p.m.

1. Roll Call
2. Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Citizen's Speak Time
4. Minutes
- (a) Regular Council Meeting - Jan. 7, 2013
5. Declaration from Council President
6. Presentation of Petitions, Memorials & Remonstrances

1. TR-2012-64 - A Resolution re-authorizing the application and acceptance of a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for the construction of School Street Park, School Street/ River Road, Agawam, MA (Table 1/7/13) (Referred to Finance Committee) (Mayor)
2. TR-2013-1- A Resolution confirming the reappointment of Karl Steig, 24 Edgewood Lane, Agawam to the Historical Commission to a term expiring Jan. 1, 2016 (Mayor)
3. TR-2013-2- A Resolution accepting a grant from Commonwealth of Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53A to Agawam Emergency Management (Referred to Finance Committee) (Mayor)
4. TR-2013-3- A Resolution accepting a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53A for Agawam Fire Department (Referred to Finance Committee) (Mayor)
5. TR-2013-4- A Resolution confirming the reappointment of David Chase, 2 Colonial Ave., Agawam to the Planning Board to a term expiring Jan. 1, 2018 (Mayor)

QUOTES OF NOTE

“I believe that adding the casino to West Springfield would have far more negatives as compared to benefits. It would affect the quality of life for both residents and businesses.”

Agawam City Councilor George Bitzas commenting on a proposed Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in West Springfield.

“They have been working on the case all along and, to me, this has been a huge plus. We're very encouraged and pleased with all of the investigators involved from the Agawam Police Department, the state police and the FBI.”

Dee Ziegert, mother of Lisa Ziegert, speaking about new developments in Lisa's 20-year-old murder case.

“We have to fully fund the project in order to receive that grant. The money has been awarded on the condition that the park has to be fully funded, which is why we need to appropriate that \$1.8 million first.”

CPA Administrator Jennifer Bonfiglio, discussing the School Street Park project and PARC grant resolution, which will appear before the city council Jan. 22.

ning Board to a term expiring Jan. 1, 2018 (Mayor)

6. TR-2013-5- A Resolution appropriating from the Community Preservation Fund and authorizing the expenditure of Community Preservation Funds for the creation, construction and preservation of land as a park for recreational use on property owned by the city of Agawam and located on School Street (Referred to Finance Committee) (CPA)

7. Report of Council Committees
8. Elections
9. Public Hearings

1. PH-2013-1 (TR-2012-63)- A Resolution authorizing the application and acceptance of a Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (Mayor)

10. Old Business

1. TO-2013-1- An Order granting or renewing a license for a Class 2 Dealer(s) - Elias Auto, 1123 Suffield St., Agawam, MA (Referred to Administrative Committee)(Clerk)

2. TO-2013-2- An Order granting or renewing a license for an Automatic Amusement Device(s) - Alano Club of Springfield, 36 King St., Agawam, MA (Referred to Administrative Committee)(Clerk)

3. TO-2013-3- Budgetary transfer from Line Items-Reserve Fund (16605-57300) - \$35,217.00 to Police Department-Training (12102-52180) \$5,000; Overtime (12101-51030) \$17,163.00; and Equipment (12103-52410) \$13,054.00 (Referred to Finance Committee)(Mayor)

4. TO-2013-4- An Order granting or renewing a license for a Class 2 Dealer(s) - Paul J. LaPointe d/b/a The Car Connection, 820 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, MA (Referred to Administrative Committee)(Clerk)

11. New Business: Unavailable at press time.

12. Any other matter that may legally come before the City Council.

Adjournment

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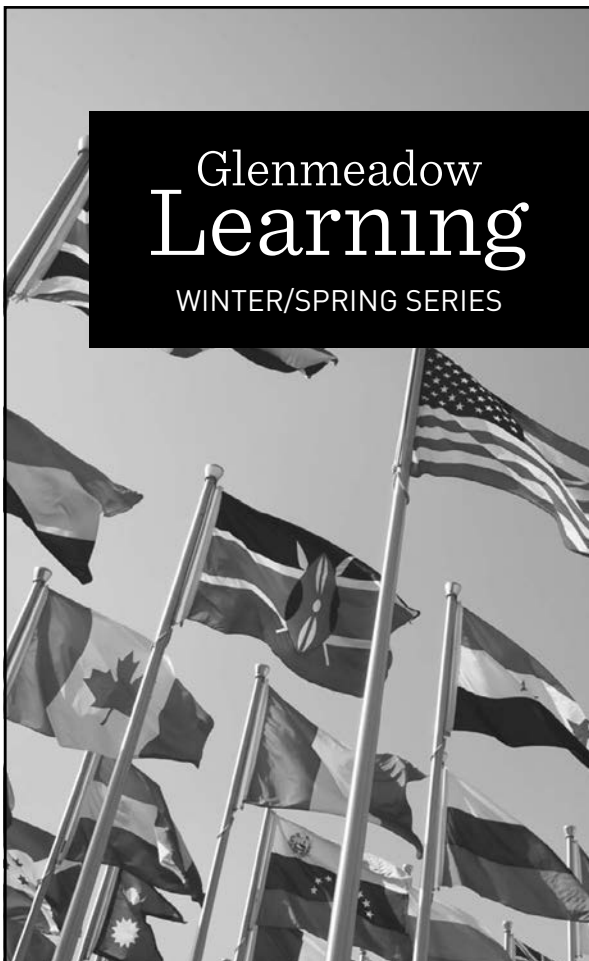
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Hard Rock unveils plans for casino

HARD ROCK, from page 1

hegan Sun; Sterling Suffolk Racecourse; Raynham Park; Mass Gaming & Entertainment, LLC; PPE Casino Resorts and Crossroads Massachusetts, LLC, according to a Jan. 15 release issued by the MGC.

Casino development, of course, is a new phenomenon in Massachusetts, after the state Legislature passed (and Gov. Deval Patrick signed) a bill in the fall of 2011 that allowed for three licensed resort casinos and one slot parlor in the state. One of the resorts is targeted for Western Massachusetts and communities like Palmer, Brimfield, Warren, Holyoke, Chicopee and Springfield have been considered as possible sites in the past.

MGM Springfield, Penn National, Hard Rock and Mohegan Sun have all indicated an interest in competing in Western Massachusetts for one of the state’s three resort-casino licenses.

The proposed West Springfield Hard Rock project will “utilize a mix of gaming and gaming amenities” including a 400 to 500 room hotel featuring a Rock Spa and tropical, indoor pool deck; an approximately 200,000-square foot casino with 100 to 125 table games and 2,500 to 3,000 slot machines; and a Hard Rock Cafe.

“Eastern States Exposition is proud to welcome Hard Rock as a neighbor and partner to the Western Massachusetts community and we’re confident the brand will complement our core values,” said Eugene Cassidy, Eastern State Exposition’s chief executive officer. He went on to state that the arrangement with Hard Rock was supported by the board of directors of the Eastern States Exposition, representing all six New England States. The board unanimously approved the project, he said.

The Hard Rock is expected to enter into a ground lease with Eastern States Exposition and make capital improvements to its campus. The 17-day Big E Fair will continue in its current form each September, with Hard Rock providing support and assistance with live events and marketing. To address traffic concerns (especially during the two-week Big E Fair), Hard Rock has partnered with Westfield-based engineering consultants Tighe & Bond.

In response to the casino, Agawam officials want to assure residents here that they are working to address a number of concerns that have already been broached.

“If a casino comes to West Springfield, there are numerous negative impacts on the town of Agawam,” said City Councilor George Bitzas, who said his primary concerns are traffic and public safety. “We already have Six Flags and the Big E creating traffic jams at certain times of the year. A casino would create an even bigger disaster for our town. I believe that adding the casino to West Springfield would have far more negatives as compared to benefits. It would affect the quality of life for both residents and businesses.”

He urged the city council’s community relations subcommittee to call a meeting specifically devoted to discussing those concerns.

“We must be proactive,” Bitzas said.

Likewise, Councilor Cecilia Calabrese urged residents via Facebook to reach out to the city council to let them know of thoughts, concerns or opinions of the potentially casino abutting Agawam.



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Agawam town officials including Mayor Richard A. Cohen were present at the announcement of the potential casino in West Springfield on Friday, Jan. 11.

Cohen establishes casino committee

CASINO, from page 1

\$700 million to \$800 million casino resort on Friday, Jan. 11. Neighboring Springfield and the town of Palmer have also been announced as potential casino sites; ultimately, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission will decide which Western Massachusetts site will be awarded a casino license.

“We really have no say, technically,” said Cohen. “West Springfield is ultimately going to vote on whether or not they want a casino there. The commission is ultimately going to decide whether or not they get a license. We are just happy to be asked to be involved because we have concerns.”

Those concerns include potential impacts on businesses and school safety. One of the biggest issues, however, is traffic, which will almost certainly be impacted.

“We deal with the traffic problems for 17 days now with the Big E and we don’t get anything from it,” said Cohen.

Both he and Theroux emphasized that Agawam will be strongly seeking financial compensation in the form of revenue sharing from the project.

“I have been assured already the revenue sharing proposal is going to be ‘entertained,’” said Theroux.

Theroux said there are still a lot of unknowns with the project. There are still definitions of abutters and other

logistics that will have to be decided by the licensing commission. Theroux said being at the table throughout the process is the most important thing for Agawam.

“We have the rare opportunity to discuss issues that will affect us,” said Theroux. “The Big E has been a good neighbor and we want to have them continue to be a good neighbor.”

Theroux promises that Agawam will be heard during the process, despite having no legal say in the negotiations.

Rua said her concerns include the safety of students at area schools, which could be impacted by the massive increase in traffic that is almost certain come to the area.

Cohen admitted he also has concerns about the effects on nearby Six Flags New England, Agawam’s largest taxpayer and a key site of continued to development.

The three-member committee will continuously sit in on meetings between the Big E and Hard Rock. They will also hold meetings themselves that will be open to the public and report their findings to the mayor.

As of now, the mayor and the committee members are being open-minded and are not saying whether they are for or against the casino. Cohen – who has been in regular contact with West Springfield Mayor Greg Neffinger – did say he would go against the proposal if Agawam’s concerns are not heard and considered.

DA to retest evidence in Ziegert case

ZIEGERT, from page 1

on Walnut Street Ext. where the 24 year-old had worked part-time. Her body was found in a wooded section of Agawam four days later.

Having never had a trial or been in the court system, the Ziegerts were connected with the Hampden County District Attorney’s Office Victim Witness Advocate Program. A liaison has worked with the family’s case for many years.

“We didn’t have a connection with the DA’s office at the beginning but we were always told to call at any time with questions or concerns. We don’t call unless we really have a reason so this gave us a connection to the DA’s office,” said

Ziegert.

Two different District Attorneys have given attention to the case that never closed. First, William Bennett and now, his successor, Mastroianni.

When Mastroianni was appointed, Ziegert and her husband, George, asked their liaison to set up a meeting. From that time forward, the family has met with him every six months or so to bring them up to date on the case.

“The present DA is very much into the scientific end of it and he really believes in that process and I think that that has given the case a lot of energy,” said Ziegert. “It’s very helpful because there are a lot of people who are still very, very concerned and want to see a resolution to this but also want to hear that even if we haven’t solved it, that we are working on it as hard as we can.”

In the past, the family hosted vigils and golf tournaments and were always in touch with those who loved Lisa.

Ziegert stays connected with friends here in the area and sends Christmas cards to those who have moved away. Her friends have become “extended family” because many of them are still so much a part of their lives.

Ziegert says that social media now has become a wonderful way to keep everyone together.

“We’re friends with the parents as well as the kids who were all friends together through the band and the high school. If they see that I’m on Facebook, they’ll friend me,”

she said.

One of the things that touches Ziegert’s heart is how those who love Lisa remember her. Children of her friends, from the age of 22 down to infancy, are very familiar with a person they have never met.

“They say an honorary title like ‘Grandma Dee’s Lisa’ or ‘Auntie Lisa’ from my grandchildren. Most of the friends have her picture and they will show her picture and say that was my friend Lisa, she’s in heaven with God and she watches out for all of us,” she said. “It’s a very positive connection that the kids who never knew her have. To me, that’s wonderful. To be remembered is to never be truly gone and Lisa’s well-remembered.”

Police urge anyone with information to contact the Agawam Police at 413-786-4767, the state police at 413-505-5933 or the Hampden District Attorney Mark G. Mastroianni office at 413-747-1000.



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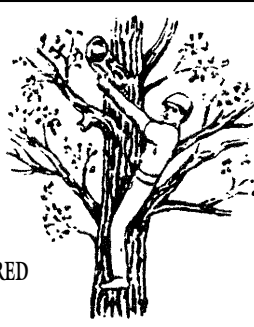
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In the Classroom

Rosie Robotics kicks off new season

While this Christmas season has come to an end, another one comes around. For FIRST Team Rosie Robotics members, their second Christmas, or “FIRST-mas,” as they call it, began Saturday, Jan. 5. Team members gathered at the Agawam High School shop and hosted the kick-off, which was open to the public, for the 2013 robotics competition season.

The high school students call their second Christmas “First-mas” because of the non-profit organization, FIRST Robotics. The game for this season is called “Ultimate Ascent.” The challenges in this game consist of the robot sending Frisbees to different goals along the playing field and climbing a 90-inch steel rod pyramid. Some Rosie mentors and students went to Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester to watch the live kickoff and get the team’s kit of parts, while the majority of the students and men-

tors went to the shop to watch the kick-off.

The team has six weeks to build the robot for the upcoming regional competitions. The team will attend the WPI Regional Worcester Polytechnic Institute, March 7-9, and the Northeastern Utilities Connecticut Regional located at the Hartford Convention Center, March 28-30.

For more information, visit rosie.agawam-robotics.org or usfirst.org.

FIRST Rosie Robotics and FIRST Tech Challenge will host a ziti dinner Friday, Jan.25 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. The menu will include ziti, sauce, meatballs, salad, bread and desserts. Tickets are \$8 and may be pre-purchased from the students as at the door. The public is welcome.

For more information, contact Charlene Cameron at 786-8302 or Lynne Henry at 789-0684.

Holyoke Catholic to administer entrance exam

CHICOPEE - Holyoke Catholic High School will administer a second entrance exam for prospective ninth grade students Saturday, Feb. 2 from 8 to 11:45 a.m. at the school on Springfield Street in Chicopee.

Any student interested in enrolling in the freshman class for the 2013-14 academic year is required to take the exam and should register as soon as possible. There is a \$25 test fee. Applications

may be obtained by calling Theresa Zaborowski, admissions director, at (413) 331-2480 ext. 1132 or by logging on to the admissions page of the school website, www.HolyokeCatholicHigh.org, to download a form.

Walk-ins are welcome the day of the exam but are asked to arrive early to complete the application form. Need-based financial assistance is available to families that qualify.

St. Thomas School to host open house, registration

WEST SPRINGFIELD - St. Thomas the Apostle School, located at 75 Pine St., West Springfield, will host its annual open house and registration for prospective families interested in the 2013-2014 preschool and kindergarten program, Tuesday, Feb. 5 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

To register, a copy of the child’s birth certificate and baptismal certificate (if your child was baptized) is required, as well as a non-refundable \$100 registration fee which will be applied to the child’s tuition.

Children must be 2.9 years of age by Sept. 1 for the 3 year-old program; 4 years of age

by Sept. 1 for the 4 year-old program; and 5 years of age by Sept. 1 for the kindergarten program.

New families with children in all other grades are also welcome to come for a tour and register at this time. A copy of the child’s latest report card, Standardized Test scores or MCAS scores should be brought at this time, to be retained by the school.

After-school extended care for preschool thru grade 8 is available throughout the school year.

For more information, call the school at 739-4131.

Agawam Schools’ weekly lunch menu

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL The Agawam High School lunch menu is posted on the school’s website.	Wednesday, Jan. 23: Whole-wheat buttered noodles with meat sauce on the side, French breadstick, mixed vegetables, fresh and chilled fruit. Thursday, Jan. 24: Stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie. Friday, Jan. 25: Chicken patty sandwich on a roll with condiments, Smart Food popcorn, three-bean salad, fresh and chilled fruit.
AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL Monday, Jan. 21: No school. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Tuesday, Jan. 22: Baked chicken sticks with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit. Wednesday, Jan. 23: Whole-wheat buttered noodles with meat sauce on the side, French breadstick, mixed vegetables, fresh and chilled fruit. Thursday, Jan. 24: Stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie. Friday, Jan. 25: Chicken patty sandwich on a roll with condiments, seasoned potato wedges, three-bean salad, fresh and chilled fruit.	AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS Monday, Jan. 21: No school. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Tuesday, Jan. 22: Baked chicken sticks with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit. Wednesday, Jan. 23: Whole-wheat buttered noodles with meat sauce on the side, French breadstick, mixed vegetables, fresh and chilled fruit. Thursday, Jan. 24: Stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie. Friday, Jan. 25: Chicken patty sandwich on a roll with condiments, Smart Food popcorn, three-bean salad, fresh and chilled fruit.
ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL Monday, Jan. 21: No school. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Tuesday, Jan. 22: Baked chicken sticks with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.	

Campus notes...

Coastal Carolina University - Joshua J. Doherty, of Feeding Hills, was named to the fall semester dean’s list.

Florida Institute of Technology - Amanda Bessette, of Feeding Hills, was named to the fall semester dean’s list.

Lasell College: Rebecca Stanton, of Agawam, was named to the fall semester dean’s list

Salem State University – Kathryn R. Meyrick and Kaitlyn Noll, both of Agawam, and Rebecca A. Montano, of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall semester dean’s list.

University of New Haven - The following students were named to the fall semester dean’s list: Alyssa Berthiaume, of Feeding Hills; Brittney Bussiere, of Agawam; Adam Howe, of Agawam; Chelsea Isom, of Feeding Hills; Andrew Walles, of Feeding Hills.

Information session slated for summer program

SUFFIELD, Conn. - Suffield Academy will host an informational session for parents and students interested in the Summer Academy program, Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. The information session will be hosted by Jeff Depelteau, Summer Academy director of admissions. Admission is free, but advance reservations are required by Monday, Feb. 4. To RSVP, contact Depelteau at jdepelteau@suffieldacademy.org or call (860) 386-4445.

The Summer Academy at Suffield Academy, which runs from June 30 to Aug. 2, is a

five-week, intensive co-educational program for day and boarding students, ages 12 - 18.

Course work offers individualized instruction in study skills and leadership, academics (mathematics, languages,ESL programs, computer science, and science); visual and performing arts; athletics; cultural events and organized weekend outings to Boston, New York City, and Newport.

Suffield Academy Summer Academy information, course descriptions, tuition and fees, and application materials are online at www.suffieldacademy.org.

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Sickness starts early in Agawam

By Christopher Faille
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Centers for Disease Control recommends that everyone six months old or older receive a vaccine against influenza every year. Thanksgiving is a traditional seasonal marker by which many people knock this off their “to do” list.

Thanksgiving has long since passed, and the entire nation is having a nasty 2012-2013 flu season so far. Agawam’s Public Health Nurse, Sherry Petrucci, spoke recently about its impact in this town.

Petrucci, who has held her position in 1998, wouldn’t say that this is the worst year she has seen. The 2009-2010 season — the one that featured the H1N1 strain — was also very bad, she said. But the two seasons between then and now were mild in their impact on Agawam residents.

Flu season typically starts in the early winter, and can continue well into the spring with the peak usually being around mid-March. This season the crunch came earlier than usual, and in terms of laboratory confirmed cases, there have been 20 cases in Agawam already.

The lab-confirmed numbers understate the actual incidence of the flu, however. If a patient goes to his or her doctor presenting symptoms, the doctor will often diagnose and treat it as flu without requiring lab testing at all. Such “clinical” diagnoses don’t enter into the figures the town’s health office receives.

Thus, officials believe 20 lab-confirmed cases is an impressive number indicating a significant incidence of flu. By contrast, there were zero lab-confirmed cases in Agawam during the flu season of 2011-2012, said Petrucci.

She said that the town has exhausted its supplies of the vaccine for this year, although “some of our local pharmacies may still have some.” There, too, though, supply is low.

Get a shot if you can, yes, “it’s never too late,” but if you can’t get a shot, there are sensible precautions you can take in your daily life, she said. Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly. Also, if you are in the habit of rubbing your eyes, nose, and mouth: it’s a good idea to break yourself of that habit.

People who are concerned about not spreading the flu should remember to cover their mouths and nose (preferably with fabric rather than with their hands) when they cough or sneeze, and to stay home from work or school when they do have symptoms. Also, clean off surfaces that will be handled by others, such as telephones, toys, or doorknobs onto which you have coughed or sneezed.

There have been thousands of confirmed cases of the flu in Massachusetts this year. The interim Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Dr. Lauren Smith, has said that fortunately the flu vaccine this year “has shown to be a particularly effective match against the dominant strains of influenza currently circulating.”

Although sometimes confused with the common cold (a less serious condition) the flu is distinct in its symptoms. The cold almost never presents with a fever, and is more nasal. A flu sufferer often feels sick and sore throughout his entire body, and usually the illness does involve a fever.

The Department of Public Health has also created a pamphlet, “Flu: What You Can Do,” that may be of assistance to people who are caring at home for someone with flu symptoms. Copies are available at Agawam Town Hall.

Flu fight

Best defense is a vaccine, officials say

By Kristin Will
Staff Writer

REGION - Record high cases of the flu epidemic have health officials urging local residents to get their flu shots.

“We are at least four times over the normal year,” said Carol Wojnarowski, a registered nurse and infection control manager for Holyoke Medical Center, in terms of the amount of patients treated for the flu and flu-like symptoms.

The majority of patients treated at the hospital are from Holyoke, however, residents from South Hadley, Granby and Belchertown have sought the hospital’s services for the flu, as well as residents from Agawam, Springfield and West Springfield.

And as for any signs of the flu season slowing down, Wojnarowski said no.

“The last three weeks have not at all lost steam,” she said. “Since Christmas, it has been very high-volume. The volume has not gone down.”

The best defense against the flu, said Wojnarowski, is a flu shot.

Composed of dead virus cells, the flu shot assists the body in producing antibodies for when it comes in contact with the actual flu virus.

The flu shot is never 100 percent effective. (The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate this year’s flu shot is about 62 percent effective). But, Wojnarowski dispelled any rumor that the flu shot actually gives the flu to the person in which it is injected.

Although, “what is surprising us,” she said, “is the amount of people that have been vaccinated who are still getting some severity of illness.”

There is no shortage of the flu vaccine in the area.

As of the first week in January, 128.1 million doses of the vaccine have been distributed, according to the CDC. Manufacturers project 135 million doses of the flu vaccine will be created this season.

“Get vaccinated,” said Wojnarowski. “The season can go all the way to March. There is just so much around, you can still get vaccinated and it would be a value to you.”

Other strategies to implement in order to stay flu-free include washing hands, covering your cough, and cleaning high-touch surfaces such as countertops, steering wheels and grocery cart handles.

“Most people can weather the storm by way of hydration and rest, rest, rest,” said Wojnarowski.

Those who are sick should stay home from work so as to recover quickly and refrain from spreading the virus to others.

She stressed the importance of infant safety, since newborns can’t be vaccinated against the flu.

“We have to protect them,” she said. “Parents have to be very vigilant” in terms of their own cleanliness and of those who handle their child.

According to the CDC, all of Massachusetts is reporting regional or widespread flu activity. Boston officials declared a flu emergency last week.

“This is the earliest regular flu season we’ve had in nearly a decade, since the 2003-2004 flu season,” said Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the CDC in a December telebriefing on influenza activity.

Frieden said this year’s flu vaccine is “very well matched” with the most common type of flu strains going around, which are “influenza ‘a,’ H3N2 predominant.”

“That means that we did about as good as we could have done to put the right three strains of flu into the flu vaccines that are available on the market,” he said.

The CDC analyzed specimens submitted by doctors to see which strains of flu are spreading. Of those specimens, 90 percent are well matched with this year’s flu vaccines.

Frieden said years that are “H3 predominant” are typically worse than other years.

“When there’s a bad flu year, and there are lots of cases, then there are more people who may have severe illness from that influenza,” he said. “It’s not necessarily that that strain is more dangerous for them.”

Recovery time from the flu is less than two weeks, according to the CDC. Most of those infected will see a “mild illness” and not require medication.

However, there are certain groups of people who are more likely to battle complications resulting in hospitalization.

Those who are at high risk for developing complications from the flu, according to the CDC, include children younger than five and especially those under the age of two-years-old; adults 65 years old and older; pregnant woman, those who are morbidly obese, youths under 19 years old receiving long-term aspirin therapy and those who suffer from: asthma, Neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions, chronic lung disease, heart disease, blood disorders, endocrine disorders, liver disorders, metabolic disorders and individuals with weakened immune systems, such as those with cancer, HIV and AIDS.

Cold or flu?

People often confuse a cold and the flu. The two viruses, though somewhat similar in symptoms, are not the same. A cold generally includes just a stuffy/runny nose.

Here’s a checklist of flu symptoms, courtesy of www.flu.gov.

Flu symptoms include:

- A 100oF or higher fever or feeling feverish (not everyone with the flu has a fever)
- A cough and/or sore throat
- A runny or stuffy nose
- Headaches and/or body aches
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea (most common in children)

If these symptoms subside but return worse, seek immediate medical attention, as well if you have difficulty breathing, purple/blue discoloration of the lips, chest pain/pressure, dizziness, confusion or persistent vomiting.

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Public Safety

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 306 calls from Jan. 8 to Jan. 14. The department made 11 arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, Jan. 8

Tyler Gaudette, 18, of 29 Pomeroy St., Agawam, was arrested on charges of possession to distribute Class D drug; distribution of Class D drug; and conspiracy to violate drug law.

Christopher Nathan Dempsey, 20, of 397 North Westfield St., Agawam, was arrested on a charge of conspiracy to violate drug law.

Wednesday, Jan. 9

Dale C. Posusky, 41, of 25 Amherst Ave., Agawam, was arrested on charges of distribution of Class D drug and conspiracy to violate drug law.

Timothy J. Hathorne, 41, of 1083 Springfield St., Agawam, was arrested on charges of operating motor vehicle with suspended license; operating after revocation of registration; uninsured motor vehicle; and conspiracy to violate drug law.

Friday, Jan. 11

Nicholas A. Suchenicz, 27, of 154 Parkview Drive, Feed-

ing Hills, was arrested on a charge of operating motor vehicle with license suspended.

Saturday, Jan. 12

Christopher M. Roberts, 33, of 549 South West St., Agawam, was arrested on a charge of operating motor vehicle with license suspended.

Kevin Brian Moriarty, 50, of 98 Wait St., Springfield, was arrested on an arrest warrant and a charge of malicious or wanton damage or defacement.

Kevin A. Malloch, 25, of 231 Adams St., Agawam, was arrested on charges of distribution of Class D drug; possession to distribute Class D drug; and conspiracy to violate drug law.

David Eagan, 19, of 20 Allen Road, Longmeadow, was arrested on a charge of conspiracy to violate drug law.

Sunday, Jan. 13

Timothy Abbott, 22, of 66 Larchwood St., West Springfield, was arrested on a default warrant for failure to appear and charges of possession of Class A drug and arrestee furnishing false name/Social Security number.

Allison M. Birkner, 21, of 1181 Amostown Road, West Springfield, was arrested on charges of possession of Class A drug; possession of Class B drug; and owner permission operating a motor vehicle without inspection sticker.

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 82 EMS calls and 13 fire/emergency response calls for the week of Jan. 8 to Jan. 14.

On Jan. 7 at 7:22 a.m., the department was dispatched to Independence Road but was canceled en route.

On Jan. 7 at 7:41 p.m., the department responded to Cottonwood Lane for a water problem.

On Jan. 7 at 10:25 p.m., the department responded to Cardinal Drive for smoke or odor removal.

On Jan. 8 at 11:20 a.m., the department responded to Dogwood Lane for carbon monoxide detector activation, no carbon monoxide.

On Jan. 8 at 8:52 p.m., the department responded to Meadow Street for carbon monoxide detector activation due to malfunction.

On Jan. 9 at 2:30 p.m., the department responded to Princeton Avenue to assist police or governmental agency.

On Jan. 9 at 10:09 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for unauthorized burning.

On Jan. 10 at 6:22 p.m., the department responded to Ellington Avenue for a building fire.

On Jan. 12 at 6:10 p.m., the department responded to South Westfield Street for public service assistance.

On Jan. 13 at 5:30 p.m., the department responded to Cardinal Drive to assist invalid.

On Jan. 14 at 11:01 a.m., the department responded to Garden Street for a passenger vehicle fire.

On Jan. 14 at 11:52 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for a lockout.

On Jan. 14 at 6:24 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for smoke detector activation, no fire – unintentional.

Seniors

Agawam Senior Center

Weekly calendar of events

Monday, Jan. 21: Senior Center closed. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Tuesday, Jan. 22: 9 a.m., Knitting, Sewing, Exercise; 10 a.m., PACE; 12:30 p.m., Ladies Billiards, Movie (“Serendipity”), Mah Jongg; 3 p.m., COA Meeting; 4:30 p.m., Yoga, 6 p.m., Beginner Line Dance; 6:30 p.m., Evening Sewing Class.

Wednesday, Jan. 23: 8:15 a.m., Yoga, Weight Training; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter I meeting; 5 p.m., Zumba with Donna.

Thursday, Jan. 24: 9 a.m., Exercise; 9:30 a.m., Quilting; 10 a.m., Line Dancing; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Pitch, Free Blood Pressure Check; 1:30 p.m., Open Art Class; 2 p.m., Melody Band Practice; 6 p.m., Genealogy Computer Class; 6:30 p.m., Pitch.

Friday, Jan. 25: 8:30 a.m., Tap Class; 9:15 a.m., Oil Painting; 9:30 a.m., Hand and Foot Card Game, Beginners Computer Class; 10 a.m., Tai Chi; 11:15 a.m., Yoga; Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage; 5 p.m., Zumba with Donna.

Lunch menu

Monday, Jan 21: Senior Center closed. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Tuesday, Jan. 22: Roast pork, gravy, baby potatoes, California blend vegetables, pears.

Wednesday, Jan. 23: Meatloaf, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, peaches.

Thursday, Jan. 24: Chicken parmesan, pasta and sauce, spring salad, baked good.

Friday, Jan. 25: Seafood newburg over egg noodles, peas, pudding.

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Firefighters douse kitchen fire

By Jennifer Wroblewski
Staff Writer

AGAWAM — A reported kitchen fire at 14 Ellington Ave., Agawam, on Thursday, Jan. 10, caused an estimated \$50,000 in damages, according to Agawam Fire Chief Alan Sirois.

The fire, which was reported at 6:22 p.m., caused minor damage to the kitchen and smoke damage throughout a portion of the first floor of the residence.

“It was out in a matter of minutes,” Sirois said, adding the department had two engines, a tower truck and one ambulance on scene.

No injuries were reported, but a pregnant woman whom Sirois said owned the home, was transported to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield as a precaution. He declined to identify her. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, he said.

According to an Agawam property assessment data search, the home is valued at \$162,100. It is still liveable, but will need repairs, said Sirois, who did not know whether the occupants had returned to the home at presstime.

Mohegan Sun trip open to the public

The Agawam Golden Agers, Chapter Two will host a trip to the Mohegan Sun Casino Monday, Feb. 4. The cost of this trip, which is open to the public, is \$23 per person and includes deluxe motor coach, driver gratuity, \$15 food coupon and two \$10 bet coupons. For more information or reservations, contact Art Usher at 786-3567.

Agawam Rotary to meet Jan. 23

The Agawam Rotary Club will meet Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 12:15 p.m. at Storw-ton Tavern for lunch. For more information on Agawam Rotary, visit www.agawamrotary.org.

As Rotarians, they sponsor local scholarships and charities and raise money for local, national, and international service projects, including the worldwide elimination of polio and providing clean drinking water. For more information on Rotary International, visit rotary.org.



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NEW GLUTEN FREE ITEMS Added to Our Breakfast Menu



Families

John F. Kennedy exhibit now open

The Springfield Museum has announced that the John F. Kennedy Experience exhibit is now open to visitors. The exhibit, owned by Feeding Hills resident and PT boat collector Frank J. Andruss, Sr., features many outstanding photos, which encompass the life of 35th President, John F. Kennedy.

Planned to coincide with the 50 year observance of Kennedy's assassination, this exhibit features memorabilia covering the various periods in the lives of John and Jacqueline Kennedy, including an actual Packard Marine Engine, the same type that would have been used in Kennedy's PT-109, and unique collectibles from Kennedy's political campaign. The exhibit is divided into six sections beginning with Kennedy's early years growing up in Brookline, and ending with Kennedy's death on Nov. 22, 1963.

Andruss, now 55, began his love for Kennedy at age 10, when he watched the movie

PT-109. "I was always fascinated with PT Boats, and over the years established one of the largest collections of artifacts in private hands in the country." Deciding to educate the public about the role of these fast wooden boats, Andruss established "The Mosquito Fleet Exhibit," a traveling exhibit that has been all over New England, since 1997.

People can view this new exhibit by visiting the Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum of Springfield History, located at 21 Edwards St. in Springfield. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are available at the Welcome Center on Edwards Street.

For more information about ticket prices or museum admission, call 263-6800. To reach Andruss, call (413) 789-1938 or email mosquitofleet@comcast.net.

Area restaurants to participate in Chefs for Jimmy

Chez Josef of Agawam, and Partners Restaurant and Catering and Nina's Cookies of Feeding Hills will join nearly 30 other culinary greats from Western New England for Chefs for Jimmy at Chez Josef on Friday, Jan. 25 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The evening's theme will be Hasbro's classic, The Game of Life. Nina's Cookies will serve sugar and Italian cookies. Chez Josef and Partners Restaurant and Catering will announce their dishes at the event.

The evening will also include an opportunity drawing and a silent auction. Presented by Winer Levsky Group of

UBS Financial Services Inc., the event honors the memory of Neal Webber, a longtime supporter of the Jimmy Fund.

Tickets, which are \$75 per person, are available only in advance and may be ordered by calling (800) 525-4669, or online at jimmyfund.org/chefs-for-jimmy.

The Jimmy Fund solely supports Boston's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, raising funds for adult and pediatric cancer care and research to improve the chances of survival for cancer patients around the world.

Hearing Test Set for Senior Citizens

Announcement-**Free electronic hearing tests** will be given from Monday-Friday 9am – 5pm at Avada Hearing Care Centers at 9 locations in Western Mass. Call to find the location nearest to you. The test has been arranged for anyone who suspects they are not hearing clearly. People who usually say they can hear but have trouble with understanding words are encouraged to come in for the tests. The testing includes newly-developed tests that determine your ability to hear speech in noisy environments. Everyone, especially those over 55 who have trouble hearing words clearly, should have a test annually. Demonstrations of the latest devices to improve clarity of speech will be available, on the spot, after the tests. You can HEAR for yourself if the latest methods of correction will help you understand words better.

Call for your Appointment

1-888-798-8528

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On the shelf at the Agawam Public Library "Library Lovers Month" events

Monday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. : AuthorTalk with Loretta Kapinos ~ Springfield Tornado: Stories from the Heart

Loretta Kapinos did not suffer any personal damage by the tornado, but was personally affected by what happened to others. The stories online and on television kept haunting her. When www.springfieldtornados.com website, created by Shawn Morse, put out a request for help in creating a book, Kapinos responded right away. They gathered stories and edited pictures, creating a heartwarming chronicle of the people who lived through it.

Books will be available for purchase and signing at this event. To register, call 789-1550 ext. 4 or visit www.agawamlibrary.org.

Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m.: eReaders and Libraries with Cynthia Laino of CW/MARS

Cynthia Laino returns by popular demand to answer questions about eReaders and electronic borrowing from your library. She will explain how to download the proper software, how to transfer items to an eReader, how to browse the digital books website and more. Bring your device if you have one, or just come to learn. To register, call 789-1550 ext. 4 or visit www.agawamlibrary.org.

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Families invited to take 'story walk'

The Agawam Family and Community Program will host a "story walk," Saturday, Feb. 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Agawam High School.

Have you ever wondered what snowmen do at night? Why is it that they look so different in the morning? Escape the cold and enjoy a warm walk through Caralyn Buehner's humorous picture book, "Snowmen At Night."

Pages of the story will be displayed throughout the halls allowing parents

and children to read, look and learn just what snowmen do while we're asleep. Don't forget to keep an eye out for the hidden pictures.

For more information, contact Michelle Connery, outreach coordinator, at (413) 821-0597 or email agawamfamilyandcommunityprog@yahoo.com. Funding for the Coordinator Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) Grant provided by Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

Park and Rec. to host annual dances

The Annual Father Daughter Dance, sponsored by the Agawam Parks and Recreation Department, will be held Friday, Feb. 8 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Oak Ridge Golf Club. Registration deadline is Jan. 18.

The first Mother Son Dance is scheduled for Feb. 28. Registration is open until Feb. 1.

For more information on these events or other Parks and Recreation Department activities, the brochure is available online at www.agawam.ma.us.

Chicken ritz dinner open to the public

A chicken ritz dinner will be held Friday, Jan. 25 at the Springfield Turnverein located at 176 Garden St. in Feeding Hills. Sponsored by the singing sections, the menu will include chicken ritz and gravy, rice pilaf, seasonal vegetable, dessert, and coffee or tea. The dinner will be served from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 and may be reserved by calling Wilma Gillan at 786-4671. Reservation deadline is Jan. 23. The public is invited.

Regular School Committee meeting agenda

Agawam Jr. High School 1305 Springfield St. Jan. 22 – 7 p.m.

1. Call to order
2. Executive Session - 6:15 p.m. (School Safety Strategies)
3. Moment of silence
4. Roll call of attendance
5. Regular Meeting – 7 p.m.
6. Citizen's Speak Time
7. Highlights on Education: Home Schooling - A. LeClair
8. Superintendent's notes
9. Student Advisory Committee Representative update
10. Unfinished Business:
 - a. SCR-13-01, Acceptance of \$2,000 donation to AJHS Mathematics Class from McNeill Charitable Foundation
 - b. SCR-13-02, Establishment of Robo Warrior Club with advisor at Agawam Junior High School
11. Business Meeting:
 - a. Routine matters
 - 1) Approval of minutes

- 2) Calendar/Correspondence
- b. Warrants/Transfers
- c. Reports:
 - 1). Scheduled reports:
 - * Personnel update (paper report)
 - * Financial update - R. Clickstein
 - 2). Subcommittee updates
12. New Business:
 - a. SCR-13-03, Approval of 2013-2014 AHS Program of Studies
 13. Policy Review:
 - a. Policy BEC, Executive Sessions, 2nd and 3rd readings
 - b. Policy JB, Equal Educational Opportunities, 2nd and 3rd readings
 - c. Policy, JFBB, School Choice, 2nd and 3rd readings
 - d. Policy JFBB-1, School Choice, 2nd and 3rd readings
 - e. Policy IJ, Instructional Materials, 2nd and 3rd readings
 - f. Policy JIE-1, Pregnant Students, 2nd and 3rd readings
 14. Any other items that may legally come before the committee
 15. Adjournment

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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, JOE AND RITA

Joe and Rita Conte celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary this past fall. Joe and Rita were married at St. Theresa Church in North Agawam Sept. 14, 1946.

They have lived in Agawam for over 80 years and are the parents of Joe, Jr., Lou and John Conte. They have nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Joe, Sr., who served as a sergeant in the U.S Marines in the South Pacific during World War II, worked as a mason contractor and also as the building inspector for the town of Agawam for over 20 years. Rita was a stay-at-home mom and a loving parent and grandparent to all of her children and grandchildren.



Joe and Rita Conte

REGNIER FAMILY ANNOUNCES BIRTH OF ABIGAIL

Brian and Karin Regnier, of Agawam, announce the birth of their first daughter, Abigail Angelina Marie Regnier. Abigail was born Dec. 27 at 1:20 p.m. She weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces and was 19 ¼ inches long.

Brian Regnier is a 1991 graduate of Ludlow High School and currently works at Beacon Sales in Connecticut. He is president of the Agawam Soccer Association and coaches Agawam American Legion Baseball. Karin Regnier is a 1991 graduate of Agawam High School and 1995 graduate of American International College. She is a teacher in the Springfield School System.

Abigail was welcomed home by her three brothers: James, a 2010 graduate of Agawam High School currently attending UMass; Tymothy, a ninth grade student at Wilbraham and Monson Academy; and Andrew, who is in first grade at Benjamin J. Phelps School in Agawam.



Abigail Angelina Marie Regnier

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From left to right, Amanda Rose (senior), Bob Fontaine (sophomore), Jeremy Lungarini (freshman), Shayne Castunguay (sophomore), Katie McDonald (senior) and James Kammerer (mentor) work on the designing and engineering aspects.



Sophomore Timothy Bednarzyk (left), junior Scott Barber (center) and Nicole Despang, senior, practice driving in a simulator program.



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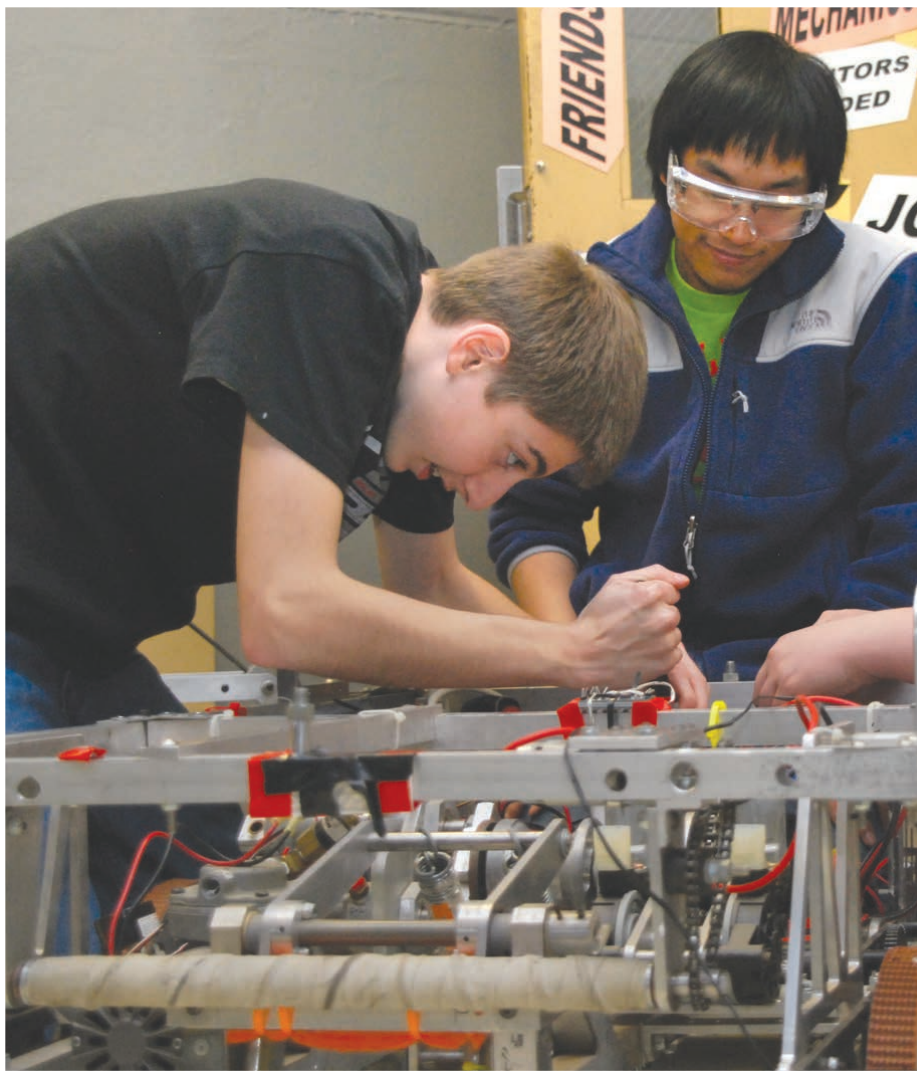
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AA

Build toward future



The electric department, from left, Raff Manzi, Maui Sor... was done in a former Rosie Robotics robot.

Agawam High School students work on their project for the annual FIRST Robotics Competition, Thursday, Jan. 10. At the time the students were four days into the six-week robot build and at the conceptual stages. A total of 2,500 teams compete worldwide. Last year, Agawam High School's team, Rosie Robotics, won the Chairman's Award, the highest regional accomplishment.



Senior Michael Gay (left) and junior Alex Richard calculate measurements as they run a part in the CNC machine.



Faculty... a drill...

ing their re



a and Nick Steele look over some wiring that



Advisor John Barry oversees as senior Tom Ennis uses
ss.



Junior Alex Richard oversees the CNC machine man-
ufacture a bracket.

Turley Publications photos by
Kimberly Hatch



Senior Michael Gay runs the CNC machine.



Mentor Brad Tryba checks to see of there is a wobble in the shaft prototype.



SPORTS

Lady Brownies defense stifles Falcons

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Near halftime, Minnechaug and Agawam were very close. After the break, Minnechaug was nearly silenced as the Agawam’s defense prevailed in a 45-33 win over the Falcons.

Agawam was leading by five points 20-15 as the closing minutes of the first half came, but Minnechaug rallied back with a pair of baskets and a big 3-pointer from Jane McWilliams.

The 3-pointer came with less than a minute to go in the second quarter, and Agawam led just 22-21 at the break.

Minnechaug came out swinging in the third quarter when Kara Bruce nailed a big 3-pointer to give the Falcons a lead in the game. Caitlin McGregor would then nail a basket to give the Falcons a four-point lead.

Agawam would then start their big rally beginning with a score by Danielle Stratton. She made a layup untouched with 5:00 remaining in the third quarter, cutting the deficit to 26-24. Paige Preston followed by nailing a crucial 3-pointer to allow Agawam to retake the lead 27-26. Agawam would not lose the lead after that.

After another defensive rebound, Alycia Rackliffe got on the second half board as she made a pair of free throws to give the Brownies a 29-26 lead. Minnechaug would then fumble another scoring chance and Rackliffe would grab a rebound and a layup.

Later, Rackliffe would then nail a jump shot as the shot clock expires.

The Brownies go on to play stronger in the fourth quarter and Minnechaug would be held to just three baskets in the final 8:00 as Agawam would come away with the win.

Agawam nearly doubled up on the Falcons, with a 23-12 score in the second half alone. Agawam got 17 points from Rackliffe, who would lead all scorers. Christie Mirski would have nine points and Preston had six. Both of Preston’s scores were 3-pointers.

McWilliams would lead Minnechaug’s scorers as she put up 11 points. Bruce followed her with eight points and Madison Babula had six points to held out.

Minnechaug suffered the loss that put them under the .500 mark at 4-5 for the regular season. They will hope to rebound when they next play on Jan. 18 hosting Chicopee at 7 p.m.

For Agawam, the Brownies would improve to 4-3 for the regular season. They were scheduled to play struggling Ludlow earlier this week and then must contend with Holyoke, one of the best teams in the area this season on Jan. 18 at 7 p.m.



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Christie Mirski looks for a teammate to pass to.

Agawam continues dominance of Colts

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam ice hockey team continues to soar on the ice and they continued their dominance of Chicopee Comp by defeating the Colts 6-2 at Fitzpatrick Rink last Saturday night.

For the Brownies, it brought their undefeated streak this season to nine wins. At 9-0, Agawam needs just one more win to qualify for the tournament.

The Brownies offense continued to surge in the cold confines of Fitzpatrick as they put up two-spots in each period.

But their big night came against James Newsome, who has had the ability to get into offensive surges at times. Against the Colts, he scored the hat trick, coming up with three goals. Cam Rivest scored two goals and had an assist and Corey Jenks also added a goal and two assists.

Agawam would grab two goals in the first period to grab a quick 2-0 lead and put themselves in a good position heading into the second period. Comp would come back a bit in the second to score a pair of their own.

Travis Seymour would break through the Agawam defense to grab a tally early on in the second. He would also score later in the period. But two Agawam goals would negate Comp’s scoring and the Brownies led 4-2 after two periods.

Jenks and Newsome would score in the third period to cap the scoring for Agawam and put the game out of reach for the Colts.

Anthony Ascoti got his ninth win of the season. He had a very busy night, making 37 saves on 39 shots in the game. For Comp, backup goalie James Theriault made 28 saves on 34 shots against Agawam.

The Colts would drop to 0-8-1 for the regular season. They also lost a tough game against St. Mary’s, 3-2, last Wednesday night. The Colts had scored their only non-loss of the season in a 4-4 tie with St. Mary’s in the teams’ first matchup of the season.

The Brownies continue to surge forward with a 9-0 record. They have had a perfect run their first time through the Fay Division and hold a 4-0 record. Ascoti has won all nine games and has five shutouts in the game.

Agawam has won every game they have played this season by at least two goals.

The Brownies are next scheduled to play Thursday against Chicopee at 6:30 p.m. at Olympia Ice Center. They will also face West Springfield Saturday at 4 p.m. at Olympia.

USA WILDCATS SWEEP COMPETITION AT BIG LEAGUE BRAWL



Turley Publications submitted photo

The USA Wildcats cheerleaders won 12 first-place titles, five Grand Champ titles and one full paid bid to the U.S. Finals during their performance at the Go Coastal’s Big League Brawl in Worcester.

By Dominique Travalì
Special to the Advertiser

WORCESTER – The USA Wildcats have many reasons to celebrate after this past weekend’s competition at Go Coastal’s Big League Brawl.

This event, which features almost 100

teams from all over New England, is a qualifier to the U.S. Finals in Providence, R.I., and offers paid bids to Battle of the Capitol Nationals in Washington, D.C.

The USA Wildcats quite literally swept the competition, taking 12 first-place titles, five Grand Champ titles, and one full paid

Please see WILDCATS, page 16

Brownies split with Eagles in pool

By Nate Rosenthal
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

EASTHAMPTON – It was a mixed evening at Williston, as the Agawam swim team split their meet with Easthampton last week. The girls had an easy time of it with a 144-67 win over their hosts.

They very nearly swept the night, but fell short in a 94-85 decision to the Easthampton boys. That meet came down to the last event, the 400-yard freestyle but the Eagles prevailed in the end.

The boys meet went back and forth with Easthampton holding the lead over the first six events. The Brownies pulled in front in the 100-yard freestyle and stayed that way until the next last event, the 100-yard breaststroke that gave the Eagles a 32-point lead. If Agawam could take first and third, they would have won the event 10-4, and thus the meet by three points. If Easthampton took first, that would be the end. Through the first leg, Agawam had that first and third, but a great second leg by the Eagles gave them the lead in the event and they never gave it up the rest of the way. Though they won by nine points, the actual meet was much closer.

On the girls side, the final result was never in doubt. Leading 10-4 after the first event, the 200-yard medley relay, the Brownies pulled away. By the sixth event, the lead

was 28 points and it only expanded from there. Team wise, the Brownies lost just one event.

The boys fell behind 10-4 after the medley relay, getting a second place from the four-some of Justin Stanikmas, Jared Lubarsky, Scott Laviano and Matt Doherty. It was second and fourth in the 200-yard freestyle with Dan Lavoie and Justin Shea that made the score 20-10. A first place by Lubarsky and points for fourth and fifth by Stanikmas and Dominic Kosior in the 200-yard Individual Medley got an event win for the Brownies and closed the gap by two points. In the subsequent 50-yard freestyle, they moved four points closer with a first by Laviano, a third by Doherty and a fifth Alex Peterson. Heading into the diving the score was 33-29.

Easthampton got two of those back with a win in the diving, while Greg McLaughlin took second for Agawam. Laviano won the 100-yard butterfly and fourth and fifth place points went to Mike Goyette and Christopher Rumprik. That closed it back to four.

The 100-yard freestyle gave the Brownies the lead as Lubarsky won it. Doherty added third place points and Stanikmas was fourth. The 11-5 advantage for Agawam made it a 53-51 score.

Easthampton took first and fourth in the 500-yard freestyle and made it a one-point meet. Shea and McLaughlin were second and third.

Please see POOL, page 17

ALUMNI TOP VARSITY IN FUN AFFAIR



Turley Publications submitted photo

Back row (from left to right): Keeley Conte (2006), Nicole Johnson (2011), Julie Gorman (2008), Melissa Cote (1999), Taylor Hartman (2009), Mackenzie Doyle (2009), Liz Steig (2001), Sam Howe (2012), Noelle Myers (2008), Alicia Rackliffe (varsity), Jessica Frawley (2011), Margaret Frawley (varsity), Angela Vecchiarelli (varsity), Meghan D'Amours (varsity) and Danielle Stratton (varsity). Front row: Kara Powell (2006), Amber (Conte) Hall (1998), Delanie Sapelli (2009), Alicia Busco (2012), MaryKate Deforge (2012), Paige Preston (varsity), Alexa Smith (varsity) and Christie Mirski (varsity).

AGAWAM - On Sunday, Dec. 23, the Agawam girls basketball alumni joined forces and played against the current varsity team. It was a close game, but the alumni team was victorious.

It was great to see former players come back and enjoy playing against Agawam's current team, a good time was had by all participants.

Pioneers 2013 tryouts a success

LUDLOW – With the initial tryouts nearly complete, the response has been better than expected. Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari was happy with the turnout and abilities of the players.

The Pioneers were able to see over 40 players over the course of the two sessions. Players traveled from all over New England to show off their abilities for the Pioneers coaching staff.

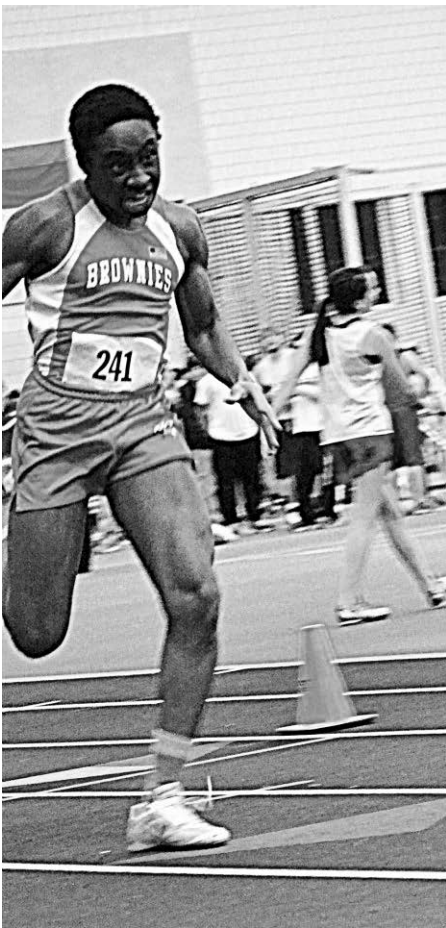
“We are fortunate that former players of the Pioneers are assistant or head coaches of teams throughout New England, and their ability to recommend quality players from their programs to potentially play for the Pioneers is exciting. They really care about the success of the Pioneers,” said head coach Federico Molinari.

“We are hoping the weather cooperates so we can complete the new turf field at Lusitano Stadium to play outdoors,” said Pioneers general manager Greg Kolodziey. “Indoor training does not do the players justice as they do not have the ability to open up the field and use space the outdoor surface offers.”

The WM Pioneers may add additional tryout dates in March or April for those who did not get a chance to participate this time around. Please continue to view the Pioneers website wmpioneers.com for updated information.

For more information about this release, please contact the Pioneers office at 413-583-4814 or via email at info@wmpioneers.com.

Andre takes top spot at Smith



Agawam senior Ose Aimua placed ninth in the 300 meters with a time of 40.69 seconds.



Turley Publications submitted photos

Agawam senior Mike Andre (243) wins the 1000-meter race at PVIAC Meet #3 on Friday night.

NORTHAMPTON - It was an up and down day for the Agawam indoor track teams at Smith College on Friday, Jan. 11.

The girls won over Holyoke, 60-31, and lost to Minnechaug, 62.5-32.5. The boys lost to both Holyoke, 65-30, and Minnechaug, 74-21.

Senior Mike Andre, who recently signed to run Division 1 track and field at The College of the Holy Cross, took the top spot in the 1000 meters with his time of 2 minutes, 36.50 seconds is one of his nine current school records. His 1000 meters is currently 10th in the state, and both his 1000 meters and 600 meters times are number one in the Pioneer Valley division.

Other performances to note were that of seniors Ben Parzich and Kevin Urban in the

mile race. Parzich ran 4:39 to win while Urban ran 5:14 and finished 11th out of 30.

Junior Tristan Cote finished third in the 600 meters in 1:30.

Senior Ose Aimua placed ninth in the 300 meters with a time of 40.69 seconds.

Senior Jon Alicea jumped 18-07 in the long jump and qualified for WMass. Nate Riley had a personal best in the long jump at 17-04

Lindsey Wassung ran in the 1000 meters, and qualified for WMass with a time of 3:26.19.

Senior Taylor Lunden has won every race she has run so far, her time of 1:42.69 in the 600 meters currently stands as the top time in the Pioneer Valley.

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SPORTS CALENDAR

Alumni basketball game to benefit scholarship fund
AGAWAM - The sixth annual Boys Varsity Basketball Alumni Game will be held Thursday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Agawam High School gym to benefit the Brian Litz Memorial Scholarship Fund.
The doors will open at 6:15 p.m. Admission is free to the event. There will be one game that evening. The alumni players will battle the current varsity team. Donations of any size will be accepted at the door.
The Brian Litz Memorial Scholarship is annually awarded to the senior varsity boys basketball player that the team votes had the best attitude, gave 100 percent effort at all times, and was a great teammate throughout the year. These are all characteristics that Brian Litz embodied as a basketball player, and as a person.
Litz, a former Agawam varsity basketball player, was a police officer in Florida who was killed in the line of duty. The scholarship fund was set up to honor his memory. Anyone that cannot attend that evening and would like to donate may forward a check made payable to the Agawam Boys Basketball Booster Club, c/o Brian Litz Fund and mail them to Tim Lockwood, 40 Denise Lane, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.
The public is invited to come and cheer on all of the players.

Winter schedule available online
AGAWAM - The Parks and Recreation winter brochure is now available online at www.agawam.ma.us.

Westfield State to offer boating safety course
WESTFIELD – The Division of Graduate and Continuing Education will be offering boating safety on Tuesday nights, Feb. 5 through April 9 from 7 to 9:15 p.m.
Taught by qualified U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary instructor Bob Madison, this course includes information on boat construction, life jackets, trailer handling, boat handling, the waterway marking system, reading buoys, day markers, lights, rules you must follow, inland boating, introduction to navigation, charts, chart tools boat motors, lines and knots, basic weather, and your boat radio. This course is a must for all beginners as well as serious boaters and satisfies all state’s requirements for licensing. A certificate will be issued when you pass the final exam. This course is designed for adults, as well as children as young as seventh grade. The required book (\$35) will be available from the instructor on the first night of class.
The cost of this course is \$25 for community members. Registration will be accepted until the first night of class. For more information and to register, please contact Brandon Fredette at 413-572-8033 or bfredette@westfield.ma.edu or visit our website at www.westfield.ma.edu/neighbors/community-education.

Hockey Booster Club to host wine tasting
AGAWAM - The Agawam High School Hockey Booster Club will host a wine tasting, Friday, Jan. 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Crestview Country Club on Shoemaker Lane.
Hot hors d’oeuvres will be served from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Tickets are \$20 per person with proceeds to benefit the high school hockey program.
Wine provided by Bertelli’s Liquors located at 726 Main Street in West Springfield.

To get your organization’s information placed in the Agawam Advertiser News, contact Sports Editor Dave Forbes at 413-283-8393 ext. 237 or send an email to dforbes@turley.com.

WILDCATS, from page 14

bid to U.S. Finals.

First-place teams to be mentioned are their Junior 2 Jungle Cats, Junior 2 Jags, Senior 2 Cheetahs, Senior 2 Bulletproof, Junior 3 Envy, Senior 3 Infinite Red, Senior 3 Coed Infamous, Senior 3 Coed Swag, Senior 4 Coed C-4, and Senior 5 Coed Elite. Their Tiny 1 Lil Macs, Mini 1 Krazy Kitties, Youth 1 Little O’s, and Junior 1 Vicious all took second-place titles, while their Junior 2 Jealousy took home a third-place title.

Not only did all their cheerleading teams sweep their competition, but their newest Hip Hop teams to the program – the junior and open Fang Squad also took first-place titles!

In addition to their 12 first-place titles, they also received five Grand Champ titles, which is the highest honor a team can receive in a particular level. Those recipients are Junior 3 Envy, Junior 2 Jags, Senior 4 Coed C-4, Senior 5 Coed Elite, and the Open Hip Hop Fang Squad.

Their Junior 2 Jag team took the ultimate prize this weekend, receiving a full paid bid to U.S. Finals Nationals in May where all the teams compete to be the best in the U.S.

The USA Wildcats is a competitive cheerleading program that was founded in 1997, and offers three locations in Connecticut: Windsor, Naugatuck, and Norwich. The program offers 19 teams ranging from a Tiny team (ages 3-5) all the way up to an Open team (ages 18-plus). They compete in tiny, mini, youth, junior, senior, and international levels.

Not only do they offer 17 cheerleading teams, but also two Hip Hop teams that made their debut this past weekend. At USA Wildcats this sport isn’t just for the ladies, they also offer six co-ed teams so the gentlemen can join too.

In Wildcat Nation it is often said that it is a good day to be a Wildcat, and in this case, there was no exception. To learn more about the USA Wildcat program, go to usawildcats.com.

Largest crowd of season sees Falcons power past Bruins

SPRINGFIELD - A season-high crowd of 6,497 fans at the MassMutual Center on Saturday night watched the Springfield Falcons (20-9-3-3) defeat the Providence Bruins (18-14-0-2), 4-2, behind two goals by Jonathan Audy-Marchessault and four assists from Nick Drazenovic.

The audience at “The Nest” was the largest since a capacity crowd of 6,789 witnessed Springfield defeat Providence, 3-1, on March 31, 2012. Springfield increased its Northeast Division lead to eight points over the Bridgeport Sound Tigers with its Saturday victory.

The Falcons kicked off the scoring in style with a slick tic-tac-toe play to take a 1-0 lead. With Springfield working on the power play, Nick Holden snapped a pass to Nick Drazenovic on the doorstep. Drazenovic tapped the puck across the top of the crease to Ryan Craig, who pushed it in at 7:32 of the first period to collect his 50th goal in a Falcon sweater.

Torey Krug took a drop pass from Maxime Sauve, skated to the inner-edge of the left circle, and whistled a puck by Springfield netminder Allen York at 11:53, tying the game, 1-1.

Drazenovic notched his second helper of the night at 16:35, moving the puck to the right point for Cody Goloubef. One night after returning to the ice following a two-month stay on the injured list, Goloubef slapped the puck from the blue line by Providence goaltender Mike Hutchinson’s glove for his first goal of the season, putting Springfield in front for good, 2-1.

The Falcons extended their lead in the final moments of the middle period with their second power play conversion of the evening. Audy-Marchessault snuck over to Hutchinson’s back post, took a feed from Drazenovic, and drove it in at 19:40, as the Falcons went up, 3-1.

Springfield put Providence away at 8:26 of the third, as Audy-Marchessault fired a puck from the right circle by Hutchinson, increasing the advantage to 4-1.

Wes O’Neill’s shot at 19:51 of the final frame deflected off of York’s glove and into the cage, but Springfield prevailed, 4-2.

York (2-3-0) posted his first win of 2013, making saves on all but two of the 25 shots he faced.

Hutchinson (4-8-1) fell to the Falcons for the second time in less than a week, stopping 32 of 36 attempts.

The Falcons headed to Manchester on Tuesday before returning home to host the Connecticut Whale on Friday and the Albany Devils on Saturday, with each contest at the MassMutual Center beginning at 7 p.m.

Falcons earn point against Worcester

The Falcons rallied from one-goal deficits three times on Friday night at the DCU Center, tying the game in the final minute to guarantee themselves a point before submitting to the Worcester Sharks (19-13-1-2) in overtime, 4-3.

As a result of its resiliency, Springfield extended its Northeast Division lead to six points over the Bridgeport Sound Tigers.

With the teams skating four-on-four, Freddie Hamilton put the Sharks on the board, taking a puck in the neutral zone, cutting around a Falcon defenseman to the slot, and snapping a shot by Springfield netminder Curtis McElhinney at 6:05 of the first to give Worcester a 1-0 lead.

Please see FALCONS, page 17

The Week Ahead

Friday, Jan. 18	Tuesday, Jan. 22
Boys Basketball Commerce at Agawam 7 p.m.	Boys Basketball South Hadley at Agawam 7 p.m.
Girls Basketball Agawam at Holyoke 7 p.m.	Swimming Agawam at Monson 4 p.m.
Hockey West Springfield at Agawam (at Olympia) 4 p.m.	Wednesday, Jan. 23 Hockey Agawam at South Hadley (at Fitzpatrick) 8 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 20 No games scheduled.	Thursday, Jan. 24 Girls Basketball Agawam at Chicopee 7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 21 Girls Basketball Amherst at Agawam 7 p.m.	Skiing (at Berkshire East in Charlemont) Agawam at PVIAC Meet 5 p.m.



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FALCONS, from page 16

McElhinney kept the Falcons within a goal in the final minute of the first after a breakdown in Springfield’s end led to an unmarked Jon Matsumoto receiving the puck in the slot. The eighth-year pro deflected Matsumoto’s shot, and the Sharks took their 1-0 advantage into the first intermission.

Worcester goaltender Harri Sateri kept Springfield scoreless despite heavy pressure by the Falcons in the opening stages of the second period. The Falcons cracked Sateri, however, at 6:00 of the middle frame, when Tomas Kubalik tipped a centering feed from Michael Chaput through Sateri’s pads, tying the game, 1-1.

The Sharks reclaimed their edge at 15:48 of the second. Denny Urban corralled a puck off of a faceoff along the left wing boards and shot it off a deflection past McElhinney, as Worcester stepped back in front, 2-1.

The Falcons made up the one-goal difference again in the third. Playing in his first game going down with an injury on Nov. 11, Cody Goloubef set up Jonathan Audy-Marchessault in the right circle. Audy-Marchessault fired a puck off Sateri’s right pad, but Ryan Johansen slammed in the rebound from the slot at 6:28, evening the contest, 2-2.

The Sharks went on their third power play near the halfway point of the final stanza and snatched the lead once more. Urban’s right point drive changed directions off of a Springfield stick and skipped by McElhinney at 9:55, as Worcester jumped ahead, 3-2.

Springfield went on a late power play, pulled McElhinney for a 6-on-4 advantage with the clock winding down in regulation, and broke through in the final minute for the equalizer. Tim Erixon’s shot from the left point was stopped by Sateri, but Kubalik backhanded the rebound by the goaltender’s stick and into the net at 19:02, pushing the game to overtime, 3-3.

Nick Petrecki hammered a puck past McElhinney’s glove from the top of the left circle at 4:18 of the sudden death period, as Worcester prevailed, 4-3.

McElhinney (17-6-2) stopped 22 of 26 shots. Sateri (7-7-1) set aside 25 of Springfield’s 28 bids.

Falcons make four moves

The Falcons announced last week that they have recalled left wing Wade MacLeod and goalie Paul Dainton from their ECHL affiliate, the Evansville IceMen, had defenseman Anton Blomqvist reassigned to the team by the NHL’s Columbus Blue Jackets and signed veteran defenseman Bryan Helmer to a contract for the remainder of the 2012-2013 season.

MacLeod, who was assigned to the IceMen on Jan. 3, scored three goals over three games for Evansville. He has six goals and an assist for seven points in five contests with the IceMen in 2012-2013.

A second-year pro, MacLeod has one assist in six games with Springfield this season. He played his entire rookie campaign with the Falcons in 2011-2012, scoring 10 goals and adding 19 assists for 29 points in 66 outings while registering a +6 rating, tying for the club high. The 25-year-old commenced his professional career with Springfield at the end of the 2010-2011 season, notching three points (one goal, two assists) in nine games.

Assigned to the IceMen on Dec. 11, Dainton is 2-5-1 with a .888 save percentage and a 3.36 goals against average with Evansville in 2012-2013. The second-year pro is 1-3-1 with the Falcons this season, posting a .930 save percentage and a 2.22 goals-against average in five appearances.

As a rookie in 2011-2012, Dainton played in 28 games with the Falcons, registering a 13-12-1 record, an .893 save percentage, and a 3.11 goals against average. Dainton was named the CCM/AHL Player of the Week for the period ending Feb. 26, winning all three starts while collecting a shutout.

The 26-year-old from Bradford, Ontario played in 21 games with the ECHL’s Chicago Express and Reading Royals last year as well, combining for a 7-5-3 record with a .905 save percentage and a 3.21-goals-against average. He made his professional debut with Springfield at the end of the 2010-2011 campaign, going 2-2-0 in five outings with a .912 save percentage and a 2.63 goals against average.

Prior to turning pro, Dainton skated four seasons from 2007 to 2011 at UMass-Amherst (NCAA, D1), compiling a 45-61-12 record, a .908 save percentage, a 2.79 goals-against average, and two shutouts in his collegiate career.

Blomqvist, a second-year pro, has two assists in 20 games with Evansville this season. A native of Kristianstad, Sweden, Blomqvist saw action in only 24 games in his rookie campaign of 2011-2012 with Springfield due to injury, posting 19 penalty minutes with no points. Blomqvist made his AHL debut with Springfield at the end of the 2010-2011 season, registering his first AHL assist on April 9 against Providence.

The 22-year-old was selected in the sixth round (167th overall) of the 2009 NHL Entry Draft by Columbus. He is in the second season of his three-year NHL entry-level contract with the Blue Jackets.

Helmer has skated with eight AHL teams in his career and will make his second appearance with the Falcons, having participated in nine games with the club in 2003-2004. A native of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario,

POOL, from page 14

With a win in the 200-yard freestyle relay by Stanikmas, Lavoie, Goyette and Doherty, the Agawam lead was three points at 68-65. But the Eagles brought it right back to one with a first and third finish in the 100-yard backstroke. Lavoie, Rumpalik and Peterson all scored with second, fourth and fifth.

Easthampton finally regained the lead in the meet with a 1-2 finish in the 100-yard breaststroke. That 10-6 score gave them an 84-81 lead. Kosior, third, Ben McKiernan, fourth, and Peterson, fifth, all scored for Agawam. That left it up to the teams of Lavoie, Shea, Lavoie and Lubarsky as well as McLaughlin, Paul Hotaling, McKiernan and Kosior. They would both come up short in their necessary finishes.

It was 1-3 for the girls in the medley relay Kendra Matland, Mackenzie Gendron, Megan Dustin and Ally Weiner took the top spot, while Madeline Heelon, Lindsay Gordon, Torrie Sutherland and Allison Schwarz got third.

It was Weiner in first in the 200-yard freestyle, with third and fourth going to Gordon and Amanda Smith. Gendron and Matland placed second and third in the 200-yard Individual Medley with Amanda Shea in fifth; Dustin won the 50-yard freestyle and Schwarz got fourth place points. Through the first four events and heading into the diving Agawam led 37-25.

Helmer has also played for the Albany River Rats (1993 to 1998), the Worcester IceCats (1998 to 2000), the Manitoba Moose (2001 to 2003), the Grand Rapids Griffins (2004 to 2006), the San Antonio Rampage (2006 to 2008), the Hershey Bears (2008 to 2010), and the Oklahoma City Barons (2010 to 2012).

The 40-year-old Helmer has played in a record 158 Calder Cup Playoff games and will become the third player in league history to participate in 19 AHL seasons once he takes the ice with the Falcons this year. He is a three-time Calder Cup champion, winning with Albany in 1994-1995 and Hershey in 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. Helmer served as the Bears captain during their most recent league-title seasons and has also held that role for Oklahoma City and San Antonio. He captained the Canadian All-Star Team at the 2009 AHL All-Star Classic.

Though they did not get first in the diving, second, third and fourth gave them a 9-6 advantage. It was Monique Groux, Kate Morin and Emily Orell. In the 100-yard butterfly, they again did not take first but still won the event with Sutherland, second, Swistak, third, and Shea, fourth. Then they took the 100-yard freestyle by sweeping the first three places, led by Dustin, Groux and Matland. In the 500 it was second and third by Weiner and Schwarz, but yet another team win. That made it 75-46.

The 200-yard freestyle relay was another second and third-place finish for Agawam, but they lost the event 8-6. It would be the only time they would lose the event. Matland, Groux, Morin and Schwarz were second; Alison Bessette, Heelon, Alyssa Smith and Gordon were third.

Heelon won the 100-yard backstroke and Kelsey Niziolek was third; Gendron and Gordon were first and second in the 100-yard breaststroke with Renaud fourth. It was a first and second in the 400-yard freestyle relay with the top spot going to the foursome of Gendron, Weiner, Sutherland and Dustin. Groux, Heelon, Swistak and Amanda Smith placed second.

Nate Rosenthal is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
745 Main St., Agawam
786-7111
Agawam1@verizon.net
www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com
Pastor Earl E. Eisenbach

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10 a.m.
Church school is in session and fellowship coffee hour follows the service. Pastor Earl and his wife Barbara are always available for prayer after the service.
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WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Communion on the first and third Sunday of the month.
Coffee and fellowship hour immediately after worship. Handicap accessible at front entrance.
Worship At Country Estates Nursing Home: 2nd and 5th Thursdays each month at 11 a.m.
AUMC cooks and serves dinner for the Samaritan Inn homeless shelter on the second Saturday of the month.

BETHANY ASSEMBLY OF GOD
580 Main St., Agawam
(413) 789-2930
www.bethany-ag.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard E. Adams

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Celebration of Praise: Sunday 6 p.m.
Wednesday Mid-Week Service (Family Night): 7 p.m.
Sunday Evening Contemporary Service: 6 p.m.

CHURCH OF REDEMPTION
50 Maple St., Agawam
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churchofredemptionministries.org

WORSHIP SERVICES
Summer Schedule
Sunday Service at 10 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday school for children and nursery for younger children

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH
370 Shoemaker Lane
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Agawambc@localnet.com
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SUNDAY SERVICES
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Sunday School (grades K - 5)
following Children’s Message until 10:45
Youth Study time (grades 6+) following sermon until 10:45
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HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
152 South Westfield St.
Feeding Hills
789-2026

SUNDAY SERVICES
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MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH
522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
Feeding Hills, MA
478-9484
David L. Short, Pastor

Sunday Family Bible Study Hour, 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Service, 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, 7 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH
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(413) 786-8200

www.SacredHeartFeedingHills.org
Fr. Steven Amo

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Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.
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www.stdavidsagawam.org.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

ST. JOHN’S CHURCH
823 Main St., Agawam
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info@stjohnevangelistchurch.org.
www.stjohnevangelistchurch.org.

SCHEDULE OF MASSES
Saturdays: 4 p.m. & 6 p.m. (Labor Day to Memorial Day)
Saturdays: 5 p.m. (Memorial Day to Labor Day)
Sundays: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Reconciliation: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Weekdays - Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri., 8 a.m.
Thursday - Communion Service



Business

PAIS JOINS PARK SQUARE REALTY



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Katie Pais

Ted Cassell, president of Park Square Realty, announced that Katie Pais joined Park Square Realty's Feeding Hills office as a sales associate, specializing in residential listings and sales. Pais has over five years experience as a realtor in the local community and is a member of the Realtor Association of Pioneer Valley. Park Square Realty is a locally owned residential real estate company with offices in Westfield and Feeding Hills.

GRAND OPENING



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Better Sports Initiative/Inner Circle Karate Studio, located at 313 Springfield St., Agawam, hosted a grand opening Jan. 5. Mayor Richard A. Cohen (center) cuts the ribbon to help celebrate the grand opening with owner Angie Jordan (third from left) and Thom DeVine (third from right).

ASBAC to host QuickBooks workshop

The Agawam Small Business Assistance Center will host a "QuickBook Quick-fix" workshop Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. This is the first in a series of workshops throughout the year for small businesses, entrepreneurs and those thinking of starting a business. This workshop is open to residents from throughout the Pioneer Valley. It will be conducted by Amy Grabowski, of Fiscal Training Solutions, who will re-

view major aspects of QuickBooks data file management, including how to get around in QuickBooks; account, customer, vendor, employee lists; accounts payable; accounts receivable; cash receipts; cash disbursements; payroll; reports, and more. Admission is free, but seating is limited. Registration, which must be in advance, may be done online at www.asbac.net or by calling (413) 786-0172.

Women's Professional Chamber seeks nominations

SPRINGFIELD - The Professional Women's Chamber, a division of The Affiliated Chambers of Commerce of Greater Springfield, Inc., is seeking nominations for the 2013 Woman of the Year Award. This award has been presented annually since 1954 to a woman in the Western Massachusetts area who exemplifies outstanding leadership, professional accomplishment, and service to the community.

The nominee's achievements can be representative of a lifetime's work or for more recent successes. Any woman in the Pioneer Valley is eligible for nomination and a chamber affiliation is not required. Nominations forms area available at www.professionalwomenschamber.com or by emailing committee chair Nancy Mirkin at nancy.mirkin@florencebank.com. Nomination documents are due Feb. 15.

Legal Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD12P2323PM
In the matter of:
Tina Cincotta
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/
Minor)
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT
OF CONSERVATOR OR
OTHER PROTECTIVE
ORDER PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B,
§5-304 & 5-405
To the named Respondent**

and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Stephen R Cincotta** of Agawam, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Tina Cincotta** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that **Stephen R Cincotta** of Agawam, MA (or some other suitable person be appointed as Conservator to serve With Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to

object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 02/05/2013. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. **IMPORTANT NOTICE** The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. Witness, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court. Date: January 08, 2013
Suzanne T Seguin

Register of Probate
1/17/13
**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD10P1828EA
Estate of: Joseph M Elim
Date of Death: 09/06/2010
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR ORDER
OF COMPLETE
SETTLEMENT OF
ESTATE
To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **Alfred P. Davis** of Agawam MA requesting that an Order of Complete Settlement of the estate issue including to approve an accounting and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition. You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 02/04/2013. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a writ-**

ten appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you. WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court. Date: January 08, 2013
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
1/17/13
**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD13P0024EA
Estate of: Ida M Reid
Date of Death:
November 21, 2012
NOTICE OF
INFORMAL PROBATE
G.L. c. 190B, § 3-306
To all persons who have or may have some interest in the above-captioned estate and, if interested, to the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Veterans Affairs, notice is hereby given on December 10, 2012 that the Petitioner**

Sherryl E Berti of New York, NY intends to file with the above-named Probate and Family Court, not sooner than seven (7) days after this notice, a Petition for Informal Probate of a Will. Petition for Informal Appointment of Personal Representative, to serve without surety on the bond **Sherryl E Berti** of New York, NY. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
1/17/13

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271. Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

Obituaries & Church News

ANNA S. CHMURA

Anna S. (Markot) Chmura, 93, of Agawam, entered into eternal rest Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013. Born in Ware, daughter of the late Peter and Zofia (Niejadlik) Markot, she lived in East Longmeadow most of her life and was a retired employee of the Phelon Machine Shop. She was also a member of the East Longmeadow Senior Citizens. She was predeceased by her husband, Joseph Chmura; and a son, Thomas J. Chmura in 2011. She leaves a daughter-in-law, Rita Chmura, of Suffield. A service was held in the chapel of the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Agawam Funeral Home was in charge.

GARY R. CHURCHILL

Gary Robert Churchill, 67, longtime Agawam resident, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2013. Born in Springfield to the late Robert and Agnes (Arnold) Churchill, he resided in Agawam before moving to Otis 10 years ago. Gary spent most of his career in sales and was also employed as a bartender at the former Foggies Bar in Chicopee and the Oak Ridge Golf Club in Feeding Hills. Most recently, Gary was employed with the Kolburne Schools Inc. Gary loved his home on the lake in Otis and will be dearly missed by his family and friends. He is survived by his two children, Kimberly O'Brien and her husband Kevin of Feeding Hills and Robert Churchill of San Francisco, Calif.; two grandchildren, Brendan Sean and Peyton Churchill; a dear aunt and many cousins, family and friends. He was predeceased

by his former wife, Constance (Alvaro) Churchill; and his beloved chocolate Labrador, Moki. Services were entrusted to Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home in Agawam. Burial was held in Springfield Street Cemetery, Feeding Hills. Donations may be made in Gary's memory to the Labrador Retriever Rescue, LRR, Inc. P.O. Box 77, Hamilton, MA 01936.

JOHN T. MUSTAIN

John T. Mustain, 79, formerly of Agawam, died Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2012 in the Holyoke Soldiers Home surrounded by his family. John was born in Chicago. He grew up in River Grove, Ill., Evergreen Park, Ill. and Bucyrus, Ohio before moving to the Springfield area. A 1952 graduate of Classical High School, John attended Western New England College and A.I.C. He served as a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War and specialized in electronics and advance radar. He retired as a supervisor of Program Planning for Hamilton Standard of United Technologies. John was predeceased by his wife, Shirley Mustain in 2011. He leaves a son, John T. Mustain Jr. and his wife Cheri of Longmeadow; a daughter, Kathleen M. (Mustain) Milani and her husband Victor of Bennington, Vt.; two brothers, Lester and Eugene Mustain; and four grandchildren, Samantha, Danielle, Ajay and Vincent. The funeral was held at



Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home followed by burial in the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Donations may be made to the Holyoke Soldier's Home, 110 Cherry Street, Holyoke, MA 01040.

JOYCE J. PERRON

Joyce J. (Pierrepont) Perron, 72, of Agawam, passed away Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013 at Baystate Medical Center. She was the daughter of the late David and Frances (Barry) Pierrepont. She was born and raised in Westfield where she lived much of her life and resided in Agawam for the past 38 years. Joyce graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1957 and completed the Western Mass Hospital nursing program in 1959. Her 50-year nursing career included work at the Holyoke Soldiers Home, Heritage Hall in Agawam and the Jewish Nursing Home in Longmeadow until she retired in 2009. She leaves to cherish her memory three sons, Lance Perron of Hatfield, Joseph Perron of Agawam and Keith Perron and his wife Leanne of Hebron, Conn.; and three grandchildren, Adam, Alexandra and Arden. She is survived by her brother, David Pierrepont, Jr. and his wife Theresa Murphy; and her sister, Kathryn Schneider and her husband Bill. A memorial service was held at St. Mary's Church in Westfield, followed by a burial service at Pine Hill Cemetery, also in Westfield. Donations may be made to the American Heart Association or the American Diabetes Association.



Winter picnic at St. John's Church

St. John the Evangelist Church will host its Annual Winter Picnic at the Parish Center on Sunday, Jan. 27 from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The public is invited to enjoy a break from winter indoors at the Parish Center at 833 Main St. in Agawam. The menu will include hot dogs, hamburgers, chili, baked beans, potato salad, macaroni salad, tossed salad, pickles, and chips and your favorite desserts are always welcome. Tickets, which are \$6 for adults, and \$5 for seniors and students, will be sold only at the door. Children under 5 are free. Snow date is Feb. 5. For more information, call Ed Grimaldi at 789-0124; Bill Tessicini at 789-0540; or Kris Hodges at 789-9167.

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Agawam Advertiser

M&M Sunday at First Congregational Church

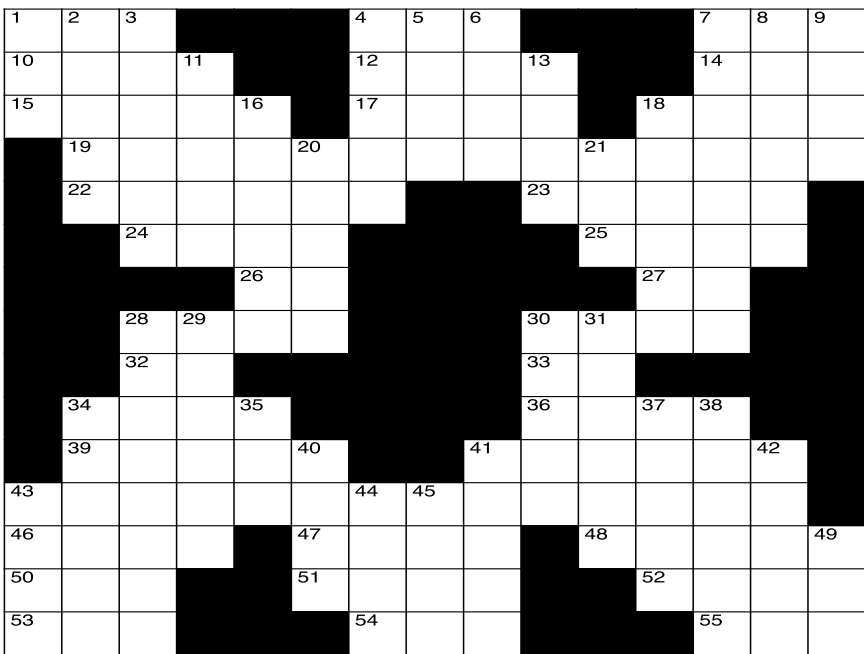
WEST SPRINGFIELD - First Congregational Church, UCC, 20 Lathrop St., West Springfield, will celebrate its annual M&M Sunday on Jan. 20. M&Ms are a shorthand way of helping people to remember the mission and ministry given to the church by Jesus. These are summed up in two scriptures from the gospels, known as the "Great Commission" and the "Great Commandment." The mission of the church is to make disciples. Matthew 28:19 reads, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." The ministry of the church is to share the love

we have experienced in Christ. Luke 10:27 reads, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Sunday worship is at 10 a.m. Church school and nursery care are offered during the worship hour. A time of fellowship and refreshments take place after the service. For more information, call 413-739-6608, email firstchurchws@yahoo.com or visit www.firstchurchws.org.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Tooth caregiver
- 4. Greek counterpart of Rhea
- 7. A numbered mail compartment (abbr.)
- 10. New Zealand parrots
- 12. Political action committees
- 14. Fringe-toed lizard
- 15. Reposes
- 17. Winglike structures
- 18. MacMurray of "My Three Sons"
- 19. Oprah's Broadway show
- 22. Ceaser, egg and tossed
- 23. Oarlock
- 24. Agile, lively (nautical)
- 25. Skim or dart
- 26. And, Latin
- 27. Embodies
- 28. Gallivants
- 30. Hyperbolic cosecant
- 32. Rural delivery
- 33. Atomic #89
- 34. Opposite of wealthy
- 36. Imus and Knotts
- 39. Yellow ageratum species
- 41. Large tropical Am. lizard
- 43. Late Show star
- 46. Armor breastplate
- 47. "Death in the Family" author
- 48. Liquors from rice
- 50. Bread for a burger
- 51. Yeast
- 52. 100 = 1 tala in W. Samoa
- 53. Two-year-old sheep
- 54. Hyrax or cony

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Danish krone (abbr.)
- 2. Insect repellents
- 3. Move sideways
- 4. October's birthstones
- 5. Alto, California city
- 6. Mark of healed tissue
- 7. Somewhat purple
- 8. Egg mixture cooked until just set
- 9. Past tense of bid
- 11. Ancient stone slab bearing markings
- 13. 9th month (abbr.)
- 16. Thrown into a fright
- 18. A playful antic
- 20. "Waiting for Lefty" playwright
- 21. Ultrahigh frequency
- 28. Cutting gun barrel spirals
- 29. Youth loved by Aphrodite
- 30. Get by begging
- 31. Cleans by scrubbing vigorously
- 34. Bubonic calamity
- 35. Radioactivity unit
- 37. Bow (Sanskrit)
- 38. Legless reptiles
- 40. Thick piece of something
- 41. A distinct part of a list
- 42. Regarding (Scottish prep.)
- 43. Something that is owed
- 44. Mild exclamation
- 45. River in Spain
- 49. Variation of 17 down

Answers on page 10

On a typical day . . .

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people visit amazon.com

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invited to exhibit their works at the Mons-
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gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Each month, the Monsoon Council on
Aging features the original artwork of a
local artist.
Various mediums are encouraged.
The center has enough space to exhibit
a wide variety of art. For more in-
formation, call Lori Stacy at 267-4121 or
email ldstacy@monsoon.org.

60 Million
watch a reality TV show

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ts Red Cross

FIELD – The American
neer Valley Chapter will
ad Cross Motors progr-
in unwanted vehicle.
I be able to provide emer-
to local disaster victims,
with emergency planning,
iving training in CPR and

Artists wanted for
60 Million

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tions, Theatrical Productions and Edg-

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***NEW STATE LAW.** Anyone advertising caring of children must list a license number to do so if they offer this service in their own home.

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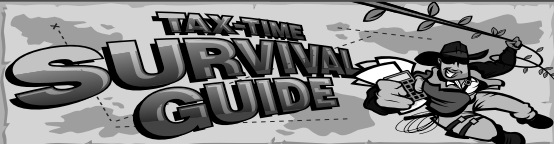
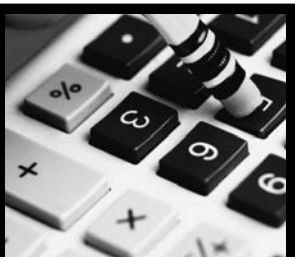
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Autumn – 2 y.o. red female, bouncy, fun-loving, Jezzy's sister, does not seem to be cat safe

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Charlie – 5 y.o. black/white male, used to home life, affectionate, lovable, well-behaved, easy-going, has some special needs but well worth it, okay with cats, not small dog safe

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Daylily – 3 1/2 y.o., brindle

Pets

female, happy-go-lucky, likes to relax, seems to be cat workable

DeeDee – 2-1/2 y.o., black tuxedo female, quiet, affectionate, snuggler, seems to be cat safe

Robin – 4 y.o. brindle male, a little shy at first but warms up quickly, beautiful coloring, loveable, seems to be cat workable

Sammy – 9 1/2 y.o. red male, used to home life, listens well but would like an experienced owner and a quiet, adult household, cat workable

Shelby – 8 1/2 y.o. black female, small, sweet and affectionate, low maintenance, does stairs, needs blood pressure meds and has some kidney issues, cat safe

Shep – 4 1/2 y.o. black tuxedo male, fun-loving, happy-go-lucky, likes other dogs and people, likes toys, does not seem cat safe

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www.greyhoundoptions.org

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\$1000 SIGN-ON BONUS for skilled Auto Body A-Techs. Must be able to perform quality repairs and frame straightening. Immediate Opening! Top pay and benefits-401k, health/disability insurance, 6 paid holidays and 2 weeks vacation after 1 year. 43 hour average work week with time/half over 40-no weekends! Candidate must have own tools and be ready to work. Call **413-786-3574** or come by for an application Langonet Auto Body & Frame, 61 Ramah Circle S Agawam MA 01001

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CARING, RESPONSIBLE CARE-GIVER home in Ludlow area needed for middle age lady. Ideal candidates will have some experience in providing daily living support to an adult. Do you have extra room in your home and your heart? Are you ready to make a difference in someone's life? Tax-free stipend of \$720/month, plus \$450 room and board. Support and training provided and 2 weeks paid vacation. Contact Terry Cook at Community Enterprises, TCook@CommunityEnterprises.com **413 536-2400 ext 302** or **Option 5**.

COOK, WAIT STAFF, Dishwasher, Baristas for new Ludlow Breakfast and Lunch Restaurant and Coffee Shop. Drop off resumé 534 Center Street Monday to Thursday 12:30pm to 7:30pm.

DRIVERS: HOME WEEKENDS. Pay up to .40 cpm. Chromed out trucks w/APU's. 70% Drop & Hook. CDL-A, 6mos Exp. **877-704-3773** or apply @ Smithdrivers.com

PART TIME: 18 hrs/wk. Must be able to work independently, have computer skills, accounts P/R, and order supplies. Willingness to work with people of various socio-economic backgrounds. Knowledge of building maintenance helpful. Applications are being accepted until 12:00 PM on Feb 1, 2013 and can be picked up at the Wilbraham Housing Authority office 88 Stony Hill Rd, Wilbraham, Ma 01095 between 9:00 am and 12:30 pm, Mon. thru Fri.
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

THE REWARDS ARE ENDLESS- become a foster parent! Call today to learn about working with children and adolescents with special emotional needs. Call Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care at **413-734-2493**. Call for January Training.

UNITED PERSONNEL in partnership with Yankee Candle Co is currently recruiting for candle makers for all 3 shifts. \$9.75-11/hour. Drug free work environment. Please visit www.unitedpersonnel.com and click apply. EOE/AEE

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CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
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25 Base Price 26.50	26 Base Price 27.00	27 Base Price 27.50	28 Base Price 28.00
29 Base Price 28.50	30 Base Price 29.00	31 Base Price 29.50	32 Base Price 30.00
33 Base Price 30.50	34 Base Price 31.00	35 Base Price 31.50	36 Base Price 32.00
37 Base Price 32.50	38 Base Price 33.00	39 Base Price 33.50	40 Base Price 34.00

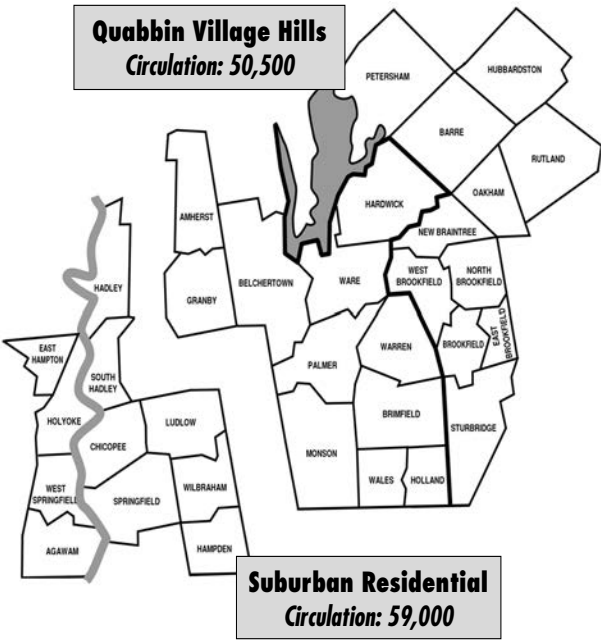
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Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$24.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for additional words. Add \$5 for a second ZONE.

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Help Wanted

WELLNESS COORDINATOR
THE Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust (SVRHT), which includes the towns of East Longmeadow, Hampden, Longmeadow and Wilbraham, the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District and the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative, is seeking qualified applicants for the Part-Time position of Regional Wellness Coordinator. The general purpose of the 20-30 hour per week position is to design, promote, and execute regional wellness initiatives for municipal employees, such as quitting smoking and protection from second hand smoke, physical activity, nutrition, and stress reduction. The candidate must be a self starter with strong communication, organization, partnership development, and computer skills. Visit the SVRHT website at www.scantichealth.org to view currently offered programs. The candidate must have a strong interest in and/or familiarity with health care issues. The candidate will be responsible for providing their own phone, cell phone and reliable transportation, and must have a valid driver's license. Other approved reimbursable expenses will be compensated, i.e., mileage, postage. Salary range \$25.00 - \$35.00 per hour DOQ/DOE. No benefits. Submit cover letter and resume to Human Resources, 174 Brush Hill Avenue, West Springfield, MA 01089, fax to 413-735-2209 or email in Word or PDF format to hr@lpvec.org. Resumes accepted until January 30, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

Real Estate

FOR SALE 3 bedrooms cape home \$134900. Trust Associates 860-209-4905.

Real Estate



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VALARIE WILLIAMS	413-658-5471
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Real Estate



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West Brookfield:
508-867-7064

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NEW - MONSON: Private homestead with barn and pasture area. Three bedroom Cape set on 3.8 acres. Minutes to Westview Creamery Ice Cream. \$235,000

NEW - WARE: Corner lot Colonial on side street, three bedrooms, large kitchen, covered front porch made for sitting. Some updates done. \$124,000

NEW - WEST BROOKFIELD: Private 5+ acre setting for this three bedroom Colonial, updated kitchen with granite, fireplace & pellet stove, master suite and attached garage. \$259,900

WARREN – Heritage Park, two bedroom, 2 bath Mobile with handicap accessible master suite. Three season room, private deck area, pantry closet. \$36,900

- Dorrinda O'Keefe-Shea** 978-434-1990
Glenn Moulton 413-967-5463
Ruth Vadnais 413-967-6326
Bob Chartier 774-200-3788
Jill Stoltgits 413-477-8780
Shalene Friedhaber 413-593-6656
Cindy St. George 413-967-3012
Mary Hicks 508-612-4794
Alan Varnum 508-867-2727
Cynthia Kingdon 508-849-7332
Jeff Toppin 774-200-7964
Cheryl Kaczmarek 413-348-0518
Bruce Martin 508-523-0114
Joe Chenevert 508-331-9031
Kathy Hosley 508-596-0209



Condos For Sale

LET IT SNOW! You won't have to worry about shoveling at Alvord Place. Relax and enjoy one floor living in this lovely South Hadley 2 bedroom 2 bath detached condo. Hardwood floors, cathedral ceilings, open floor plan, newly painted. Enjoy mountain views from your deck. Just steps from Ledges Golf Course and Brunelle's Marina. \$210,000. Call **413-348-5707**.

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For Rent

3 BEDROOM HOUSE, 1.5 baths in Monson, MA. \$950, first last, security. 1st fl washer/ dryer hook-up, yard. (413)427-1463.



ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

PALMER/MONSON LINE. NON smoking, second floor, four rooms, one bedroom and bath. Includes: Stove, refrigerator, garbage disposal, WD hook-up, electricity, heat, hot water, cablevision, trash/recycle. \$900 monthly. First/Last month. (413)283-5747.

LUDLOW HOUSE: 3 BEDROOMS, sm den, 1.5 baths, partial finished basement. W/D hook-ups, appliances & 2 detached garages. \$1,250/mo utilities not included. No pets. (860)881-1520, (413)433-0278.

MONSON, HOUSE, 3 bdrms, completely renovated, energy efficient, stove, fridge, microwave, dishwasher, garbage disposal. Large yard. Close to Town Center. \$1,150/ month, no utilities. (413)348-5897.

For Rent

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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MONSON. 3 BEDROOM. Completely renovated, propane heat, lower than oil, \$100 toward first fill-up. **NO PETS!!!** \$850/ mo. F/L/S (413)783-0192. Mr. Allen.

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PALMER ONE BEDROOM apts. 2nd fl \$695, 3rd fl \$565 includes heat, HW. No pets. Close to center. (413)596-6286, (413)289-9442.

PALMER THREE RIVERS Studio \$510.00, 1 Bedroom \$630.00, full appliances. Available Immediately. 413-283-9472

PALMER, BEAUTIFUL 1ST fl, 2 BR, all appliances, w/d hook-ups, close to Tpke, non-smoking, \$750/ mo, 1st, last, security (413)284-1783.

For Rent

PALMER THREE RIVERS. Country Manor apartments, 2 bdrm, \$730 month. All units renov. w/disposal, dishwashers, microwave, elec. range, carpets. Parking, fishing and playground. Cats okay. Call (413)283-9472.

PALMER. 2 BR \$750 & 4 BR \$1,100, w/d hook-up, eat-in kitchen, pantry, yard. Pet OK, off-street parking. (413)265-4712, (413)283-4898, (617)833-7540

PALMER. LG. STUDIO. Laundry on premises, off-street parking, w/w carpeting, quiet, convenient location. (413)454-1201.

Vacation Rentals

WARM WEATHER IS year round in Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. \$3500. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.

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\$\$\$ AUTOS WANTED TOP Dollar paid for your unwanted cars, trucks, vans, big and small, running or not. Call **413-534-5400**.

CASH FOR CARS: Any make, model or year. We pay more! Running or not. Sell your car or truck today. Free towing! Instant offer: **1-800-871-0654**.

The Deadline
to Submit
Classified
Line Ads is
Friday at Noon



Payroll Administrator

Springfield Area Transit Company is seeking a full-time Payroll Clerk to perform the payroll administration function for approximately 300 employees. 35 hrs/wk, M-F, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Must have strong payroll experience and demonstrated knowledge of all regulatory requirements related to payroll administration. Payroll administration experience in a unionized environment is strongly preferred. Pay rate is \$22.38/hour with excellent benefits package. Prior to applying, review a job description and qualification requirements under Careers at www.pvta.com. To be considered, send resume and cover letter to: SATCo, Attn: HR, 2840 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01007. AA/EEO

Carson Center for Children & Youth in Westfield

Spanish Speaking Care Coordinator

An exciting opportunity for a Spanish speaking Care Coordinator to join the Carson Center Wraparound team. Responsibilities include working with families in the community. A Masters Degree is required. Must have a vehicle, a valid MA driver's license and a good driving record.

Spanish Speaking Family Partner

Join the Carson Center Intensive Care Coordination team in Westfield, MA. The Family Partner provides support and education to families. Candidates must have experience being the care giver to a youth with special needs. Current driver's license and vehicle is necessary.

Please send resume to Dorrie Christman, Carson Center for Human Services, 77 Mill Street, Westfield, MA or e-mail: dchristman@carsoncenter.org

EOE/AA

Carson Center for Children & Youth in Westfield

Full-time Masters Level Outreach Clinician(s) to provide behavioral and clinical services for In-Home Therapy Services Program (IHTS). Flexible schedule required in order to meet the unique needs of each family. Responsibilities include family assessments, development of strengths-based treatment plans, psych-education and skills training, crisis intervention, individual and family therapy. Requirements: masters degree in social work, psychology or related field, license or license eligibility. LICSW and experience with children/families preferred. **Spanish speaking a plus.** Some evening hours required. Competitive salary and benefit package. Candidates must have valid driver's license and a car.

Send resume to: kswiatek@carsoncenter.org or Search Committee, Carson Center for Human Services, 77 Mill Street, Suite 139, Westfield, MA 01085

EOE/AA

Personal Facts	
	% Daily Value¹
Commitment 39g	100%
Energy 46g	100%
Character 42g	100%
Strong Work Ethic 38g	100%
Reliability 44g	100%

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Store Manager Trainees
\$23.00 per hr.

It takes a unique person. Someone who's dedicated. Who excels in a supported, team-oriented environment. And is ready to do what it takes to earn the rewards – like higher wages, generous vacation time, and great benefits – that come from a successful career at ALDI. With more than 30 years in the industry, we are the leading select assortment grocer and one of the largest food retailers in the world, with over 3,600 locations.

MANAGER TRAINING HIRING EVENT

\$23.00 per hour

Potential Manager Salary up to 75k

Tuesday, January 29, 2013, 7am-7pm
ALDI, 25 Hazard Ave., Enfield, CT 06082

Requirements: High school diploma/GED, must be available to work anytime between 6am-10pm, retail experience preferred, drug screening/background check, the ability to lift 45 pounds
Benefits: Higher wages • Major medical and dental insurance
Generous vacation time • Paid holidays
401 (k)

No Calls Please. EOE



&

!

This section is intended to promote “free” events or ones that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization that benefits the entire community. Paid events that are not deemed fund-raisers or benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. Deadlines vary with each individual newspaper, look inside for your deadline. We usually print one week in advance of an event, and the listings should be brief, with only time, date, location, brief activity explanation, and contact info. The best thing to do is emulate a calendar listing you like that already appeared in the paper. Each editor directly manages and edits all of the calendar entries. Artwork or photos to compliment your calendar listings are always welcomed.

We try to be inside our public schools on a weekly basis, both in terms of sports coverage and classroom features. Our education and sports sections run 52 weeks per year. We feel school coverage is probably the single largest reflection of the communities we serve, so this paper is committed to having a strong presence there. We devote more staff and space to these sections than any other editorial realm. We do print free courtesy stories, briefs and photos submitted by teachers, sports teams and students, as we cannot possibly be at every event. If you have a photo you want to run, please include a photo caption identifying those in the image from left to right and a description of the event. Please call or e-mail the editor directly with your school event coverage requests ~~at least three days in advance.~~ If we can’t attend, you are always encouraged to send in your own write-up and photos.

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns. We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

We love letters to the editor and guest columns. It is what the soul of this newspaper is all about. However, we don’t print what we can’t prove. All letters and columns must be signed and confirmed by us prior to publication. If you are alleging things that we cannot prove, we will consider that a news tip and look into it. We always encourage readers to celebrate their communities versus just slamming them. We also pen a weekly “editorial.” Some readers confuse editorials with being objective “news.” Our unsigned editorials are opinions formed after doing the research, or com-

piled through our reporters’ stories and other means. We then write opinions, which do take a definitive side on issues. Editorials are not meant to be balanced to both sides like our news stories should. They are intended to opine around the facts and take a position. That’s the whole point of the “opinion” page.

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a “people news” form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

Our Sports Editor Dave Forbes and his reporters and photographers cover select varsity school games weekly as well as youth and adult sports leagues. Our team tries to be fair and spread the coverage around to all the teams, but as playoffs approach, teams making the playoffs take more precedence. We have tried hard this year to expand our coverage of youth sports, but we need coaches and players to send in their photos and write-ups. You can e-mail Dave Forbes at dforbes@turley.com.



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